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NEW YORK • Weekend, December 9-11, 2011



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# metro®

# WEEKEND

# NEW YORK

December 9-11, 2011

[www.metro.us](http://www.metro.us)

NYC'S #1 FREE DAILY NEWSPAPER

# WINTER MOVIE GUIDE

WINTER

► Some of the year's most highly anticipated films are coming out in the next few weeks ► With both Oscar contenders and crowd pleasers in the mix, Metro helps you decide which movies you need to see {pages 14-16}



THE FINAL 'SIMPSONS' EPISODE HAS BEEN WRITTEN!  
TELEVISION {page 33}



A NEW MAY-DECEMBER ROMANCE THAT WE CAN GET BEHIND?  
FILMS {page 18}

STREET DOGS TAKE IT TO THE STREET AND 'WRECK THE HALLS'  
MUSIC {page 32}



1

## In the news

**Sanitation truck kills woman**

A city Sanitation truck struck and killed a young woman in Williamsburg on Wednesday. Katharine Yun, 25, was crossing Broadway near Driggs Avenue just after 7 p.m. when the vehicle hit her. She was pronounced dead at Woodhull Medical Center.

METRO/EAE

www.metro.us

**ONLINE TODAY**

**WWW.METRO.US/ MIXTAPES**  
DECEMBER PODCAST FOR GIFT IDEAS

**WWW.METRO.US/ MOVIES**  
PATTON OSWALD WAXES NOSTALGIC

**WWW.METRO.US/ TV**  
WE DISSECT TLC'S "THE VIRGIN DIARIES"

**Christmas. Charity**

► Revelers dressed like Santa gather in Washington Square Park during SantaCon 2009.

MASAO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES

**Where's Waldo? Santa took over**

SantaCon is coming to town! The self-described "nonsensical Santa Claus convention," open to anyone who wants to run around New York dressed like Old St. Nick, will begin this Saturday at 10 a.m. METRO/EAE

**Two-wheeling into the office**

► Number of bike commuters doubles in four years ► Skyrocketed 289 percent since 2001 ► Even in the winter, thousands choose two wheels

More New Yorkers are shunning the subway and hopping on two wheels to get to work. The Department of Transportation announced Thursday that the number of city residents who bike to work has doubled in the past four years.

Steve Vaccaro, 46, an attorney who bikes to work, said he's seen more cyclists joining his daily commute, from the Upper East Side to Lower Broadway along busy Fifth Avenue.

"I love the fitness benefits," he said.

"One of the nicest things about riding is you're not packed in amongst people in the subway," he added.

A number of new bike racks have cropped up

WRITE TO METRO:  
LETTERS@METRO.US

**Rack it up**

**NEW YORK.** The Department of Transportation installed 175 bike racks on posts that formerly held parking meters. The racks were installed this year on Columbus Avenue and Amsterdam Avenue

"I love that it allows me to see what's going on in the neighborhoods as I pass through, and I just feel great and energized when I get to work." STEVE VACCARO



in Manhattan, as well as on Seventh Avenue in Brooklyn, 37th Avenue in

fiscal year alone.

But Jack Brown, of the Coalition Against Rogue Riders, said more cyclists on city streets has created "bike bedlam."

"They blow through red lights, they ride the wrong way," he said.

**ALISON BOWEN**  
alison.bowen@metro.us

Queens and Johnson Avenue in the Bronx.

The city plans for 6,000 more bike racks to be installed around New York. "Our infrastructure needs to keep pace with new demands on city streets," said DOT commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan. METRO/AB

**Real/fake mobster sentenced**

**BROOKLYN.** A "Sopranos" actor was sentenced to house arrest in Brooklyn federal court. Anthony Borgese, 73, who played Tony Darrow on "The Sopranos," pleaded guilty in February to extorting a man who was later beaten up by known Mafia associates. METRO/AB

**NYU teaching class on OWS**

**WASHINGTON SQUARE.** Next semester, coeds can study Occupy Wall Street. The class will analyze the political, social and economic conflicts that incited the protest. METRO/EAE

**Healthy cycle**

The numbers tell the story:

**18,846**  
DAILY BIKERS IN CITY, 2011



**9,327**

DAILY BIKERS IN CITY, 2007

**Biking is booming**

**NEW YORK.** Cycling to work has skyrocketed 289 percent since 2001, when just fewer than 5,000 people biked to work daily, according to Department of Transportation statistics.

How does the DOT determine the number of people who bike to work? The agency counts bike riders at six commuter locations in the city, such as bridges over the East River and the Whitehall Ferry Terminal. METRO/AB

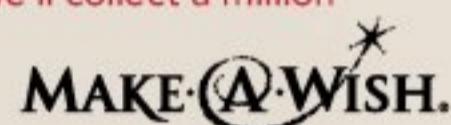
MACY'S DECLares DECEMBER 9, 2011



# National Believe Day

## WRITE SANTA A LETTER AND HELP MAKE WISHES COME TRUE

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## DOUBLE DONATION DAY

For all letters mailed in Macy's Santa Mail Letterboxes on Friday, December 9, Macy's will give an extra \$1 to the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

## WISHES ACROSS AMERICA

On National Believe Day, Macy's and the Make-A-Wish Foundation will also be granting special wishes in cities across the country for children with life-threatening medical conditions. Join us as we embrace the holiday spirit of goodwill. Together, we'll collect more than a million reasons to believe!

Don't miss this season's traditional animated classic based on the timeless true story that inspired a whole new spirit of believing! Yes, Virginia will air on CBS-TV, Friday, December 9. Check your local listings.



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**1:** Log on to [www.metro.us](http://www.metro.us) and look for this Metro Magic logo:

**2:** One click on the logo will



take you to a "Wish List" we have set up via a secure link on ToysRUs.com. Once there, you can see all the toys we've already requested, with more

added daily.

- Some of the toys already donated will be given to children at a holiday party this weekend at the Brooklyn Children's Museum.
- Any reader who buys a toy through Metro is eligible to win a free 42-inch LCD TV from Kiss Electronics, located at 230 W. 125th St. Or call 212-932-1117. • METRO

**Generosity. Toy drive**

► There's still time to donate a toy! Go to [www.metro.us](http://www.metro.us) to find out how.

**Santa's workshop here at Metro**

Metro readers have already purchased close to 500 toys, and our offices are beginning to look more like a toy store. This Saturday, Metro will donate some of the toys to a holiday dinner hosted by The Partnership for the Homeless, where nearly 400 homeless or at-risk children will receive a gift. The U.S. Marines Toys for Tots will pick up the remaining toys. • METRO

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Dec 13-17

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Dec 31

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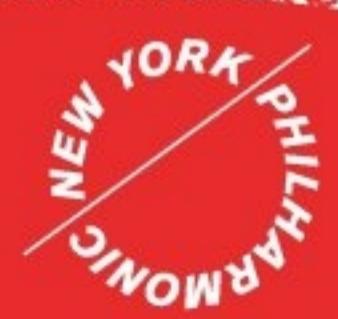


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## PA shells out \$2B on WTC site

**WORLD TRADE CENTER.** The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey approved a 2012 budget Thursday afternoon that allotted \$3.9 billion to capital projects, according to The Associated Press.

Much of that money will go to the World Trade Center memorial site. The authority will reportedly spend \$2 billion alone on World Trade Center development in the next year.

Increased bridge and tunnel tolls approved by the authority earlier this year will help pay for the



► Construction continues at the WTC site.

construction, but AAA is fighting the hike.

The AAA is arguing that any money raised from drivers should be used for roadway projects and repairs.

● METRO/EAE

## Apple's new space faces new inquiry

**NEW YORK.** Apple is facing its second state investigation into its new home at Grand Central Terminal.

The New York Post reports that a state Assembly committee is collecting documents about the store in an effort to understand how Apple got a slot at Grand Central, which is owned by the MTA.

State Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal told the Post that lawmakers want to make sure that the MTA got the "best possible deal" from Apple.

The 10-year deal has raised eyebrows, because it is expected to collect \$100 million for Apple.

The company, however, does not need to share any of that revenue with the MTA. It is the only retailer in Grand Central that does not have to share a portion of its profits. ● METRO/AB

### \$100M

Apple is expected to garner as much as \$100 million in revenue from their Grand Central Terminal spot.

### \$60

The deal amounted to \$60 for each square foot of space, which the Post reports is much cheaper than other tenants pay at Grand Central.

### \$5M

Apple agreed to pay \$5 million to former tenant Metrazur restaurant, which agreed to leave the space early.

# CB1 throws a wrench in W'burg bar scene



► "We've always tried to maintain a good relationship with our community," said Sage Geyer, who owns Union Pool.

► Community Board 1 requires new bars to offer 'waited, table service' if they are opening a backyard

► Board members say they're trying to curb nightlife inundation

New Williamsburg bar owners hoping for both a backyard and the blessing of the community board better think twice.

This week, North Brooklyn's Community Board 1 approved a new liquor license application requirement that mandates all new bars with rooftop or backyard space offer "waited, table service."

"If you want to expand in the backyard, people have to sit at the tables and eat food," said Mieszko Kaliba, a CB 1 member.

Kaliba said that rowdy, outdoor bars have become a neighborhood scourge and a stricter application process would hopefully "prevent bars from having a backyard."

"The No. 1 problem is noise, especially in the late hours," Kaliba said.

The board also requires liquor license applicants to submit signatures from neighbors in support of the business, Kaliba said.

**"We've had an unbelievable explosion of bars and restaurants. We have no problems with the restaurants; we do have problems with the bars."**

MIESZKO KALIBA

Sage Geyer, 35, the managing partner of Union Pool bar in Williamsburg, was concerned by the board's edict. Union Pool has a backyard where a privately-owned taco truck operates; the bar itself does not serve food.

"I can't understand ... the alarm that has been caused by this influx of bars," said Geyer. "I think it's important that we don't try to squash small businesses."

● EMILY ANNE EPSTEIN  
emily.epstein@metro.us

## What about those concerts?



**BROOKLYN.** This is not the first time Community Board 1 has come up against the neighborhood's reputation for revelry.

The popular Williamsburg waterfront concert series is moving locations

next summer, after board members complained about loud noise and drug use at the shows.

In 2012, the concert series run by the nonprofit Open Space Alliance will move out of East River State

Park and into a city-owned lot a few blocks away.

Next summer the OSA will offer a lineup of 15 concerts on Kent Avenue between North 11th Street and North 12th Street.

● METRO/EAE

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WEEKEND, DECEMBER 9-11, 2011

# Va. Tech shaken by deadly shooting

- ▶ Campus police officer shot dead
- ▶ Second body believed to be gunman
- ▶ In 2007, 32 were killed and 25 hurt in bloody rampage at same school



▶ A sign reports that the Squires Student Center is on lockdown at Virginia Tech on Thursday in Blacksburg, Va., after a shooting.

A gunman ambushed and killed a campus police officer and was later reported as found dead on Thursday at Virginia Tech University, the site of one of the worst shooting rampages in U.S. history.

Authorities declared the campus safe and lifted a lockdown after a nearly four-hour manhunt, lending credence to television news reports that a body found in a Virginia Tech parking lot was that of the shooter.

Police at a televised news conference declined to say whether they suspected a murder-suicide and offered no motive for

the crime, citing an ongoing investigation.

"Today tragedy again struck Virginia Tech with a wanton act of violence where a police officer was murdered during a routine traffic stop," Virginia Tech president Charles Steger told reporters. "Words don't describe our feelings."

The incident evoked grim memories of April 2007 when a mentally deranged student killed 32 people and wounded 25 before committing suicide on the school's campus. It was the nation's deadliest attack by a single gunman.

In Thursday's incident,

## Quoted

**"Such violence is never easy to explain and cuts to our core — especially on a campus that has experienced such grief in the past."**

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
REPUBLICAN LEADER ERIC CANTOR  
OF VIRGINIA

the gunman walked up and shot dead a four-year veteran of the campus police force during a routine traffic stop, police said.

The man then fled on foot toward a nearby parking lot, and a body was later found there along with a gun, police said.

Sgt. Bob Carpentieri of the Virginia State Police would not confirm that the second body was that of the unidentified gunman.

He said, however, that investigators were looking at the possibility that the shooter was linked to an armed robbery earlier in the day in the nearby town of Radford, Va. **REUTERS**



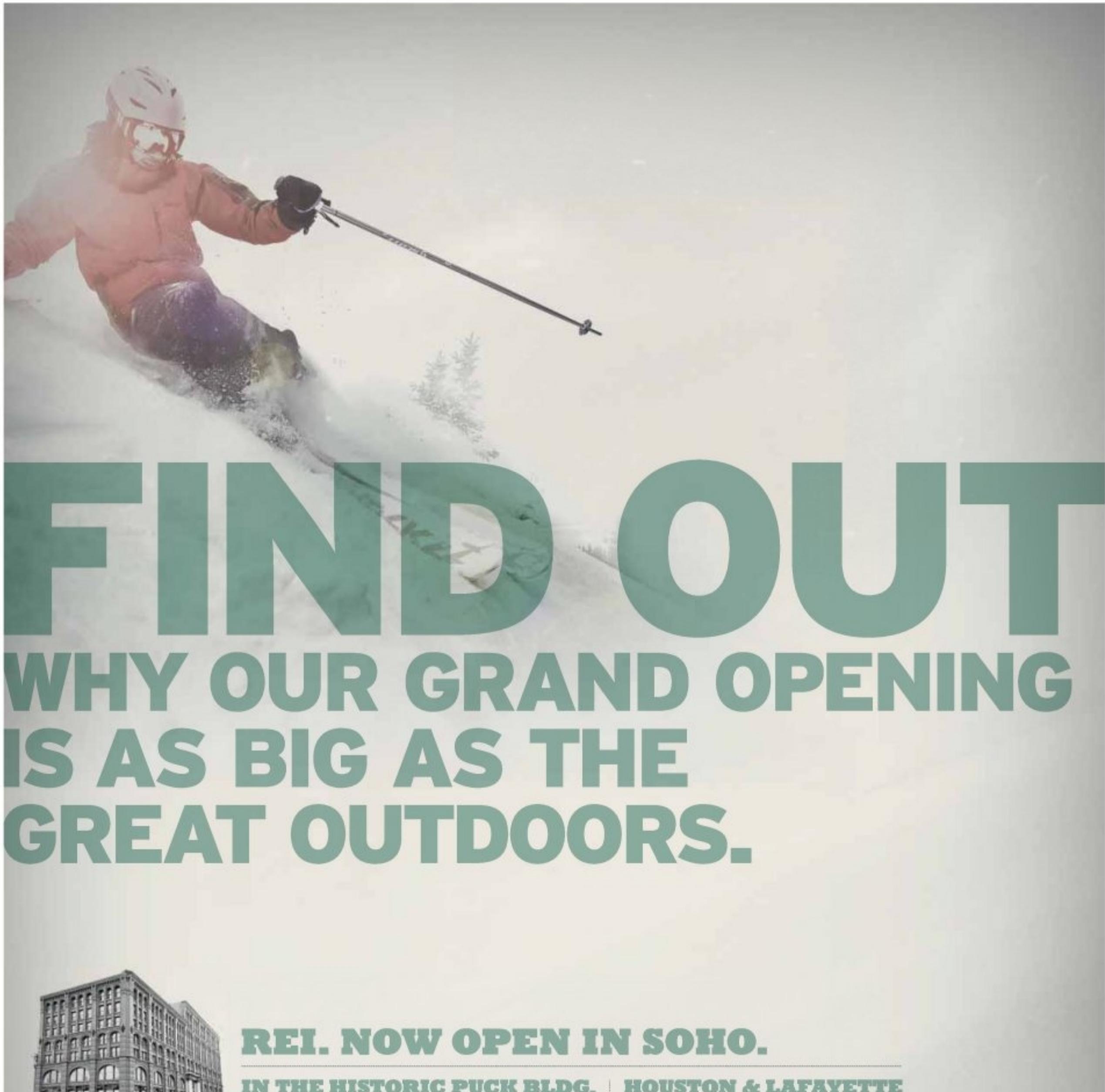
# Twitter unveils its redesign

Twitter Inc., the microblogging service that lets people send 140-character messages, redesigned the site to make it faster and simpler to navigate.

The service will feature tabs at the top of the screen

that let users more easily access their home pages, connect with others and discover new content, Twitter said today at an event in San Francisco. The updated site will be available to all users in the next few weeks.

"As other services tack feature after feature after feature on top of each other, we're going to go in an entirely different direction and offer simplicity in a world of complexity," CEO Dick Costolo said. **BLOOMBERG**



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Dec. 25

**'War Horse'**

Steven Spielberg has been very busy this year, but we have a feeling that one of the projects closest to his heart was this adaptation of a book and play about a boy and his horse who get separated after the horse, Joey, is enlisted as part of the English cavalry during World War I. Once his owner also signs up for service, the bond between man and animal gets tested to the extreme.

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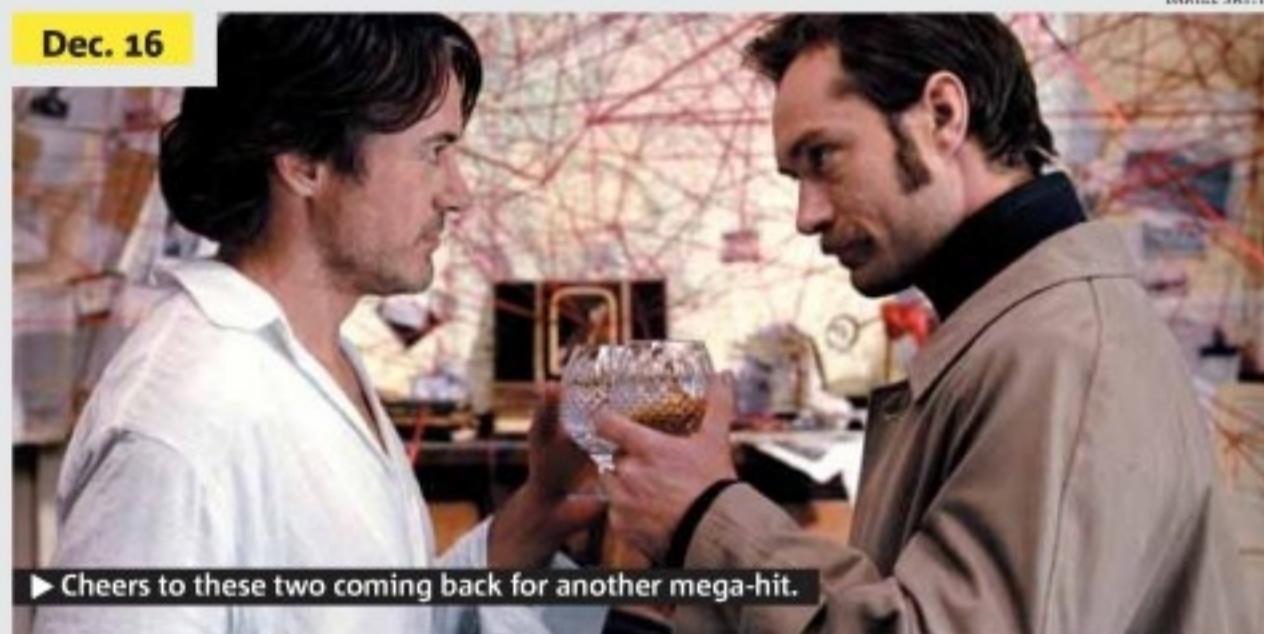


# WEEKEND

## WINTER MOVIE GUIDE

► In December and January, movie theaters are jam-packed with Oscar contenders and crowd-pleasers ► Here's a look at a few of the highlights coming up in the next few weeks

Dec. 16



► Cheers to these two coming back for another mega-hit.

DANIEL SMITH

**'Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows'**

Expect lots of slow-motion bullets flying and faces reeling from serious punches to the kisser in Guy Ritchie's second installment of the "Sherlock" franchise. This time, Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law and Rachel McAdams return with newcomer and star of the Swedish version of the "Dragon Tattoo" series Noomi Rapace.

Dec. 25

**'Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close'**

10-year-old Oskar Schell, shaken by his father's death in the 9/11 attacks, finds a key in an old vase. Driven by his father's belief in his own unique intellect, Oskar is inspired to search the city for the lock that matches the key. The film expands from its limited Dec. 25 opening on Jan. 20.

Dec. 16

**'Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chip-wrecked'**

They always say that you should vote with your wallet, which must be the only explanation of why another "Chipmunks" feature has been made. This time, they're on a cruise ship.

**'Carnage'**

Roman Polanski may be barred from visiting the U.S., but that hasn't stopped him from adapting to film the Broadway play "God of Carnage" about two sets of Brooklyn parents who meet for a civil discussion about their children's schoolyard skirmish.

Dec. 23

**'We Bought a Zoo'**

The man who brought you "Almost Famous" and "Vanilla Sky" brings another family drama which, if nothing else, we can guarantee has a kick-ass soundtrack. A recently widowed father (Matt Damon) decides to buy a dilapidated zoo in order to give his family an "American experience."



COURTESY OF 20TH CENTURY FOX



heard that there would be an American remake of the Swedish films based on Stieg Larsson's best-selling trilogy. But if trailers and sneak peeks are any indication, this new effort by director David Fincher makes the case for an exciting reinvention of the

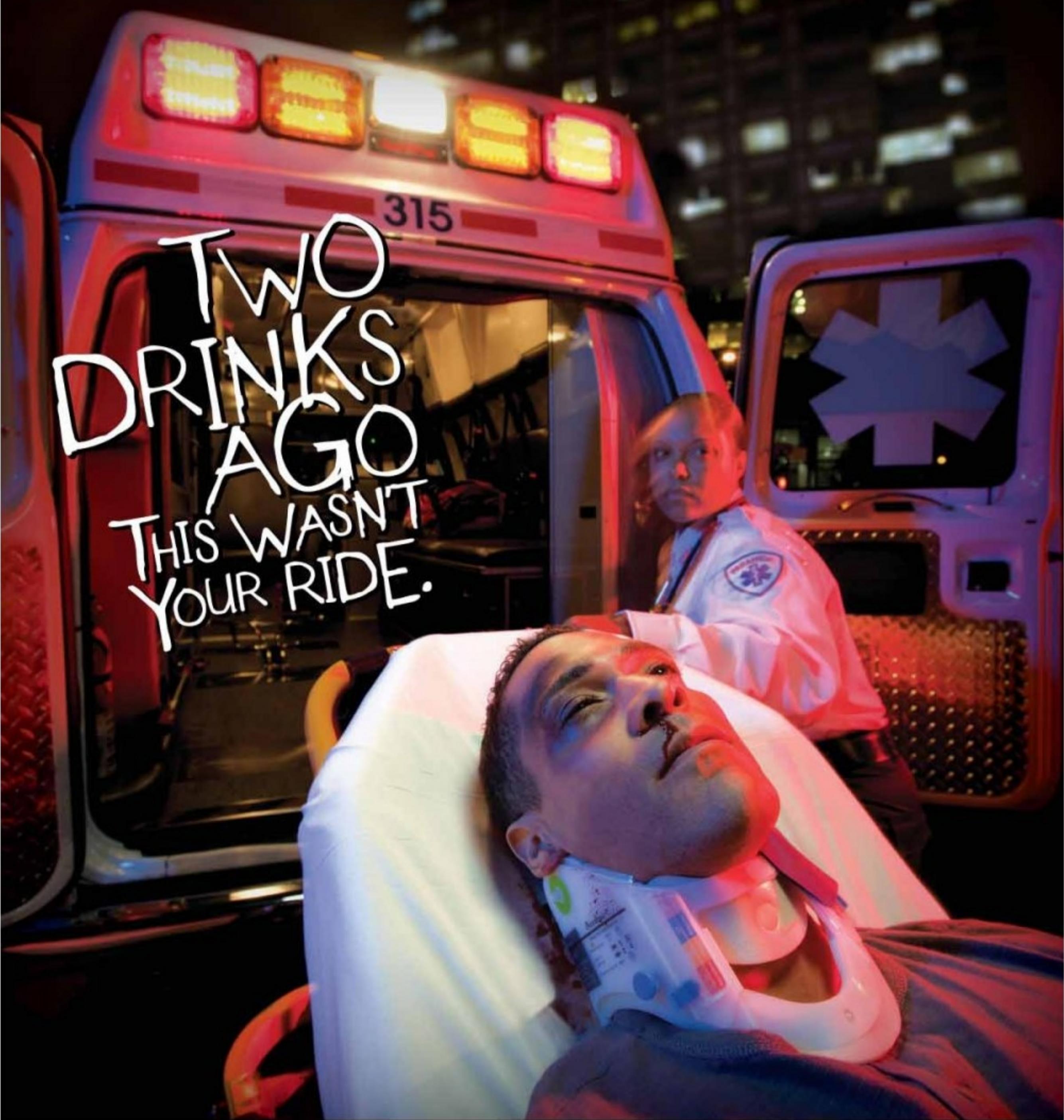
mystery thriller. Trent Reznor provides the score.

**'The Adventures of Tintin'**

Peter Jackson and Steven Spielberg take the beloved children's adventure series to 3-D with this visually stunning adaptation of a young journalist on a mission to discover why his newly purchased ship, the Unicorn, is of particular interest to the menacing Mr. Sakharine. Suddenly, a treasure hunt is in the offing. Jamie Bell, Simon Pegg, Nick Frost and Andy Serkis star.

**'The Darkest Hour'**

Not all aliens are creepy reptilian monsters you can shoot in the eye. In this 3-D sci-fi film, the extraterrestrial creatures are an invisible force that descend on Moscow and every major city on the planet to sap Earth of its energy sources.



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## winter movie guide

Jan. 6

**'The Devil Inside'**

Shot in the documentary style of "The Blair Witch Project," this film depicts one woman's search for resolution after her mother committed three murders — supposedly while being possessed by a demon. Through observing other exorcisms, the daughter — worried that she will one day become possessed herself — tries to find a reason for the senseless killings.

Jan. 13

**'The Iron Lady'**

We all know that there's nothing, literally nothing, that Meryl Streep can't do — including playing England's first female prime minister, Margaret Thatcher, through her controversial reign in the 1980s. Consider it this year's "The King's Speech," but with more charm and kitten heels.

**'Contraband'**

Like Al Pacino said in the third



"Godfather" movie, "Just when I thought I was out, they pull me back in." Thus is

the case with ex-thug Chris Farraday (Mark Wahlberg) who, after settling down with

a wife (Kate Beckinsale) and kids, gets his tightie whities caught up in an international counterfeiting scheme.

**'Joyful Noise'**

Queen Latifah and Dolly Parton go head to head in a story about a small-town choir hoping to make the nationals. Did that just sound like an episode summary of "Glee"? Well, you wouldn't be wrong, but this one also brings Keke Palmer and Jeremy Jordan to the table.

Jan. 27

**'The Grey'**

Liam Neeson leads a group of thugs through the Alaskan wilderness after a plane crash leaves them helpless in the dead of winter. Dude sports broken bottles on his fingers for a fist fight with a wolf. This is going to be awesome.

Jan. 20

**'Haywire'**

Director Steven Soderbergh delivers an action film that can outpace all of his "Oceans" films with a punch that would only match Quentin Tarantino's best output. Mallory Kane (Gina Carano) is a freelance assassin who's been dispatched to do all the dirty work that even WikiLeaks won't find. But



► Gina Carano is a lethal freelance killer in "Haywire."

once she's become inconvenient on the paper trail, it's only her own stealthy skills that can save her from death.

**'Red Tails'**

During World War II, an African-American military unit undergoes Air Force training while grappling with segregation. Cuba Gooding Jr., Ne-Yo, Method Man and Terrence Howard star.

**'Coriolanus'**

Ralph Fiennes stars and directs this adaptation of an oft-forgotten Shakespearean play about betrayal and revenge.

**'Underworld Awakening'**

The "Underworld" series goes 3-D as Selene (Kate Beckinsale), awakens after a 12-year coma and learns she has a daughter.

**'One for the Money'**

Katherine Heigl plays a rough-around-the-edges Jersey girl who becomes a bounty hunter after she loses her sales job at Macy's.

**Roger Ebert, CHICAGO SUN-TIMES**

**★★★★★**

"Michael Fassbender **mesmerizes.**"  
—USA TODAY

**Michael Fassbender** **Carey Mulligan**

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**NOW PLAYING**

# Yet another adventure in babysitting

As was evidenced by the outtakes from "Superbad," Jonah Hill is a funny guy. He's great at improv and playing that obnoxious, grabby kid that you can't help loving. The only explanation for his latest film not being that funny is director David Gordon Green, who restrained Hill for the sake of playing up the schmaltzy love-fest between his character and the seemingly awful kids he's babysitting.

It's a movie that begins with Hill's character performing favors of a sexual nature for his friend-with-benefits, played by Ari Graynor. While opening with a raunchy sex scene might've worked well for "Bridesmaids," here it's kind of a letdown when the other shock value moments as are unoriginal as a car chase with drug lords and a kid who is obsessed with ex-



► Three innocent charges (Landry Bender, Kevin Hernandez and Max Records) get more than a story at bedtime with their new, inept sitter (Jonah Hill).

pletives.

The premise, the obstacles and the stock characters involved are a perfect xeroxed copy of every other movie about a person who is clueless about kids being forced to look after kids.

Add to that some bizarre racial and sexual orientation issues that come up randomly in the middle of

the movie. It's a clumsy handling of something that didn't need to be in the movie in the first place. These issues are important, but what the heck are they doing in the middle of our fluffy, been-there-done-that comedy? If you don't have time to deal with the issue appropriately, don't deal with it at all. ■ HEIDI PATALANO



# Michelle and Zac's New Year's kiss

- The 'New Year's Eve' stars share a mutual affection
- Are we the only ones who feel weird about this?

While "New Year's Eve" isn't the first time Michelle Pfeiffer and Zac Efron have crossed paths onscreen — they had a few choice scenes in 2007's "Hairspray" — it does mark an important milestone in their professional relationship, at least as far as Efron is concerned.

"I met Michelle a few years ago, during 'Hairspray,' and had a huge crush on her — always, from day one. Back then I was very, very young, and very bashful, and just around her I tended to put my foot in my mouth a lot. I didn't really know what to say to her, and everything just came out wrong," Efron remembers. "I didn't know what to do. I was very shy. But then I got to talk on the phone with her about this part, I

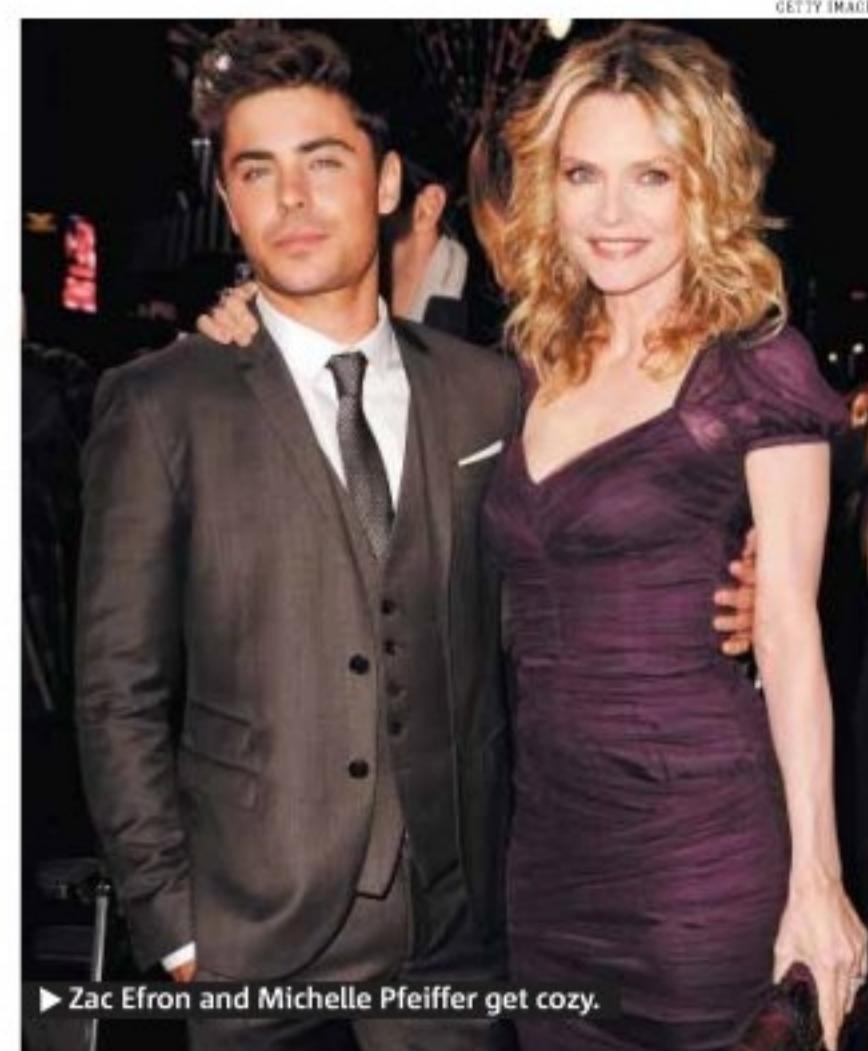
remember. And she said, 'I think we should take this to the next level. We should really push it. Let's get a kiss in there.' And I was like, 'I'm in! I'm in this movie, sign me up. Let's do it.'

#### Quoted

**"I met Michelle a few years ago, during 'Hairspray,' and had a huge crush on her — always, from day one. Back then I was very, very young, and very bashful, and just around her I tended to put my foot in my mouth a lot."**

EFRON, ON PFEIFFER

In the film, another romantic comedy omnibus in the style of "Valentine's Day" from director Garry Marshall (and starring everyone from Jessica Biel to Robert De Niro), Pfeiffer stars as Ingrid, a mild-mannered office drone brought out of her shell by Efron's brash bike messenger. "I'm the envy of every girl across the planet, I think. I got a kiss in there with Zac Efron. Pretty clever of me, at the ripe old age of 53," Pfeiffer says. "I think he was a little disappointed when he opened my trailer door and there sat Ingrid. And his little face just kind of fell, and I felt really bad. But I think probably the sweetest thing about him was he never let on — and he still won't admit — how disappointed he was. But he grew to love her anyway."



► Zac Efron and Michelle Pfeiffer get cozy.

GETTY IMAGES

## Their New Year's plans

Michelle Pfeiffer is the first to admit her end-of-the-year celebrations are usually fairly tepid affairs. "I never make it to midnight," she says. "I celebrate New Years at 9 p.m. West Coast time. I watch the ball drop in my jammies with some champagne, maybe some pie, whatever happens to be around. I stopped sort of setting those unrealistic expectations for New Year's Eve many years ago."

This year, though, will be different — if her young co-star, Zac Efron, has anything to say about it. "Yeah, but we're going to change that because you're coming out with me this year," Efron boasts, interrupting Pfeiffer. "The parties just seem to get better and better every year. We'll show you how we do it, Michelle."

Pfeiffer, blushing and dubious, acknowledges that this isn't the first she's heard of Efron's intentions. "Zac is threatening to take me out for New Year's Eve," she declares. "I'll have to run it by my husband first."

the frigid conditions. "I felt very comforted."

For Efron, the biggest challenge in the film arose when it came time to finally get that kiss with Pfeiffer. "I remember I was in my hotel room the night before, imagining how I was going to kiss her, and it was awesome. I was the man in every way," he says. "And then I went to execute on the day, and right when I got to the crucial moment a huge piece of confetti flew right into my mouth."

 **NED EHRBAR**

METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

# 'Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy' will make you work

Given its dense and fascinating source material, it's not surprising that this British thriller puts the audience to work — which is a refreshing change of pace for a genre that is home to so much surface-level mate-

rial. Based on a classic 1974 book of the same name by John LeCarre, "Tinker" observes the highest levels of British Intelligence at MI6. When it becomes clear that someone in the trusted inner circle has been a mole for the Russians, one forcibly retired agent (Gary Oldman) is asked to investigate the men he'd worked closest with.

This film truly does not fit the definition of what we Americans would deem to be a "spy film" — there are little to no car chases or ex-



► David Dencik and Gary Oldman are cagey spies in "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy."

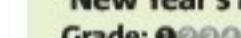
usions of any kind. The story comes out through the dialogue, not some easy voice-over that spoon-feeds salient points. If you find yourself playing catch-up, it may only add to the menacing mood of the Cold War Era.

But like anything in life that doesn't come easy, the end rewards are many. Don't send your gramps with the hearing aid to see it, but if in the mood for a richly told portrayal international intrigue, you're in for a treat. ■ HEIDI PATALANO

#### Review

## 'New Year's Eve' drops the ball

**'New Year's Eve'**

Grade: 

As their laughable promotional posters and commercials suggest, "New Year's Eve" is a terrible, terrible movie. You would probably have more fun hanging out with a bunch of drunk yahoos at an Applebee's by yourself on the movie's namesake holiday than you would watching this film.

The inherent problem with "New Year's Eve" is why these types of ensemble flicks are popular in the first place — there are so many stars crammed into the



► Seth Meyers and Jessica Biel star in "New Year's Eve."

interconnected, daft storylines that no one has any chance to develop or shine. It's borderline offensive to see such obvious talent (cast members Hilary Swank and Robert De Niro have both won Oscars — twice) spouting dialogue that is beneath a second-rate soap opera.

But that isn't going to stop you from seeing it, is it?

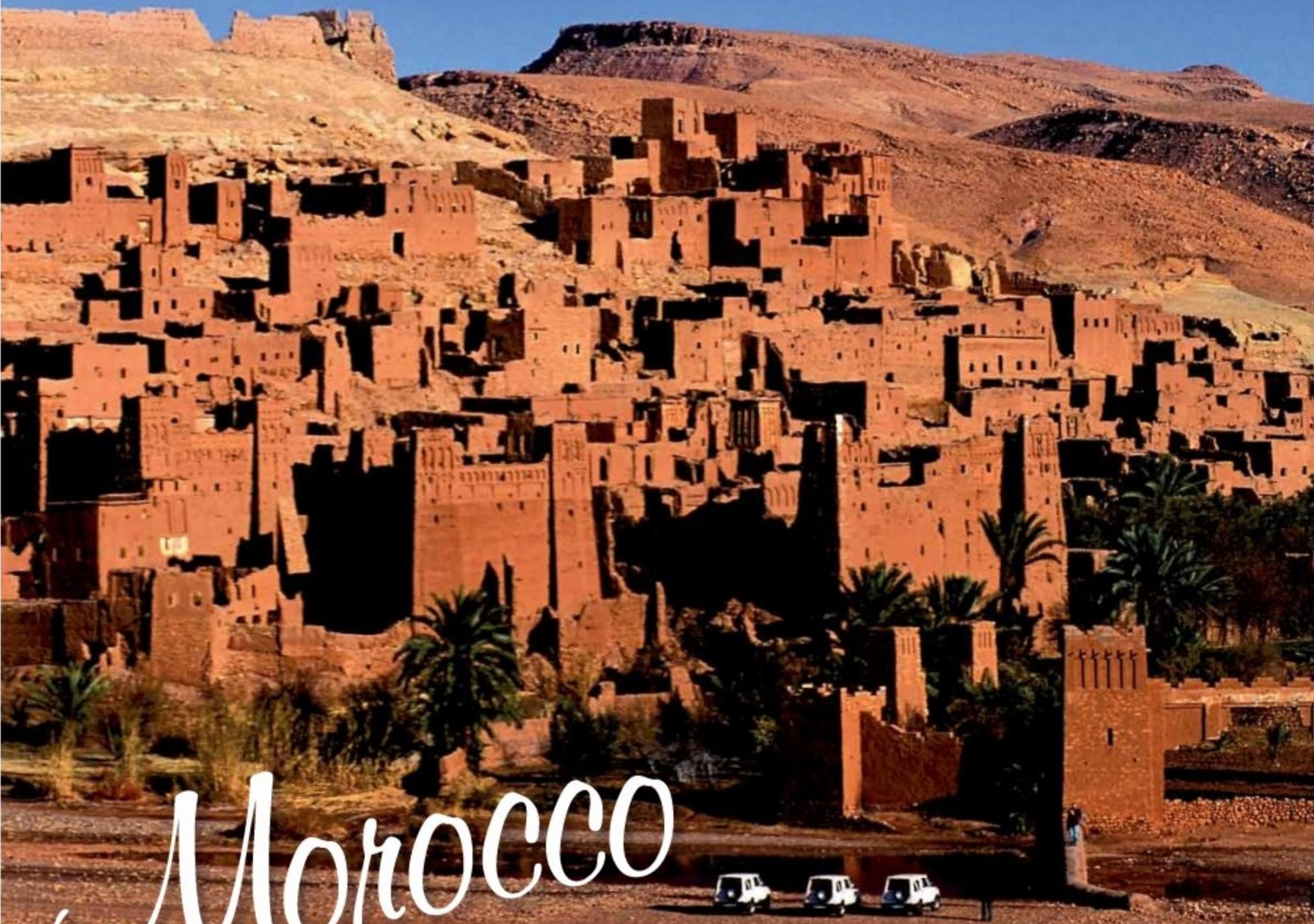
■ DOROTHY ROBINSON

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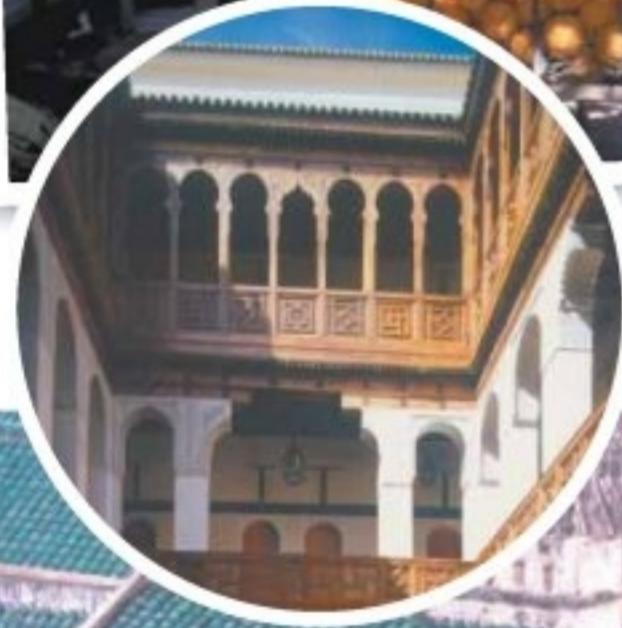


# Morocco

A TOUCH OF MAGIC –  
SO CLOSE, YET SO DIFFERENT

# SPLENDOURS OF THE PAST, CHARMS OF THE PRESENT

Morocco is known for a relaxing way of life and a warm welcome. Whether you are discovering the authentic heritage of Fez, Meknes, Rabat or Marrakech, or letting your impulses guide you on a stroll through Ouarzazate, Essaouira, Tetouan or Tangier, one thing is certain: you will be swept off your feet by the sheer variety of culture, relaxation and exotic scenery.

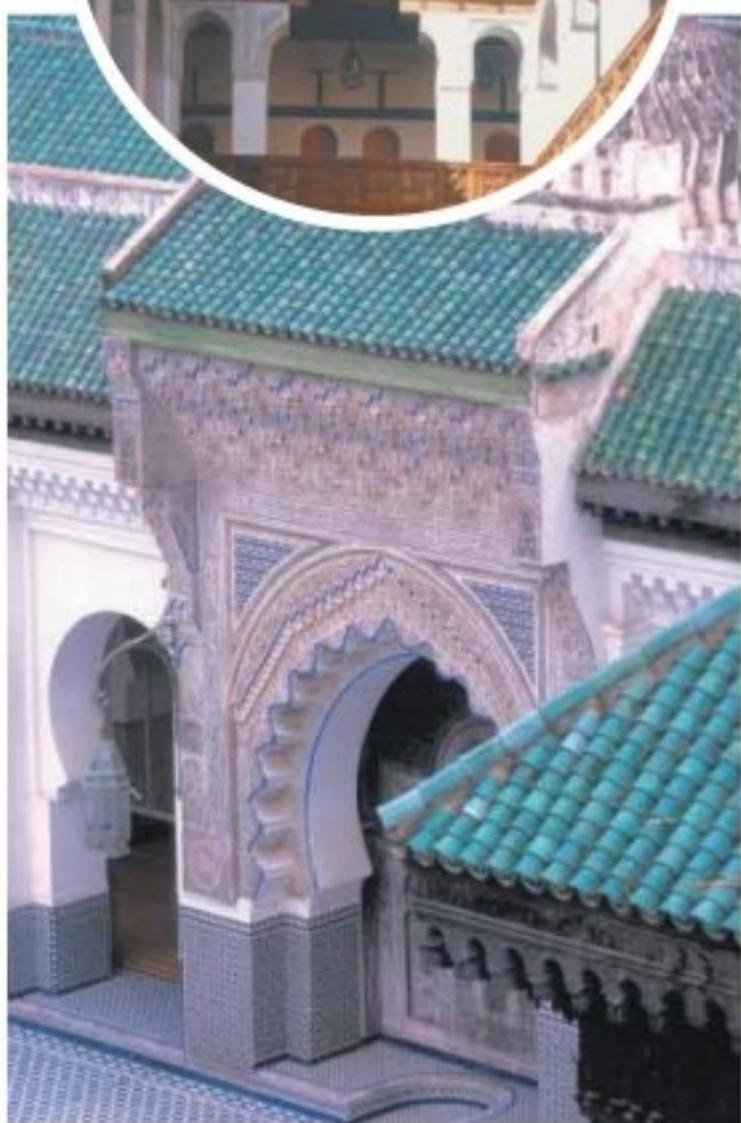


## FEZ: THE MYSTERIOUS CITY

The oldest of the imperial cities, Fez is a traditional city that has managed to preserve its way of life. With its medina, which was classified as a UNESCO world heritage site 30 years ago, it attracts curious visitors from all over the world. Colours and scents abound in this ancient labyrinth, where over 40,000 craftsmen bustle about. Get lost in the amazing spectacle of its alley labyrinth before savouring a cup of tea on the terrace of the Jamai Palace – the perfect place for taking in the pulse of this city of spellbinding spirituality and countless secrets.

There are historical sites and monuments to please all tastes and

interests here: choose between the majestic Bou Inania madrasa, the famous Karaouiyine mosque with its legendary library, the Boujloud souk, the Sidi Ahmed Tijani mosque and Zawiya, and the Mellah, and don't forget to stop for a moment to enjoy a bite to eat in the gastronomy and health paradise that is Fez, renowned for its beauty products and essential oils. The hot springs of Moulay Yacoub, some 20 kilometres north-west of the city, are a peaceful haven for relaxation. Absorb the many benefits of its soothing, hot waters before heading off to discover endless festivals of sacred music, Sufi culture, Festivart, or a relaxing round of golf.



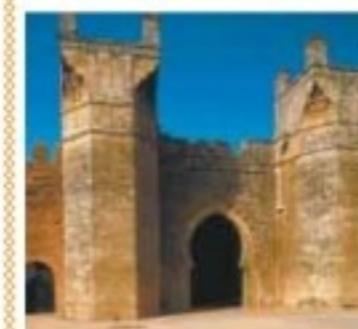
## MEKNES: THE CITY OF LUXURY

It was thanks to the sultan Moulay Ismaïl that Meknes acquired its reputation as an imperial city in the late seventeenth century. Indeed, he was the one who decided to create a capital in the 'Moroccan Versailles'. Next to the medina, he commissioned the construction of a kasbah with a range of palaces, mosques, barracks and stables, cisterns and ponds. Today, you can visit the magnificent mausoleum dedicated to him.

Meknes is peacefully situated inside a beautiful walled enclosure, and offers plenty of

must-see spots like the Great Mosque, the Bou Inania madrasa, and the Dar Jamaï Museum of Moroccan Arts. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the benefits of the land: the olives, the mint tea, the wines in the old cellars. The city of Meknes is divided into three districts – the imperial city, the medina, and the new city – and stretching across four acres in the south is the Agdal Basin, the city's great reservoir which is surrounded by stunningly green countryside bordering on the Boufekrane valley. To the north is the village of Moulay Idress, nestled in

between two mountain tops, and further on, where stretches of plains of olive trees meet the banks of the Khoumane river, sits the Roman site of Volubilis – right between the Arch of Caracalla and the Tangier Gate. A visit to the springs of the Kingdom of Volubilis is essential for golf lovers and fans of hiking and the great outdoors, as the scenery is simply awe-inspiring.



## RABAT: THE CITY OF ELEGANCE

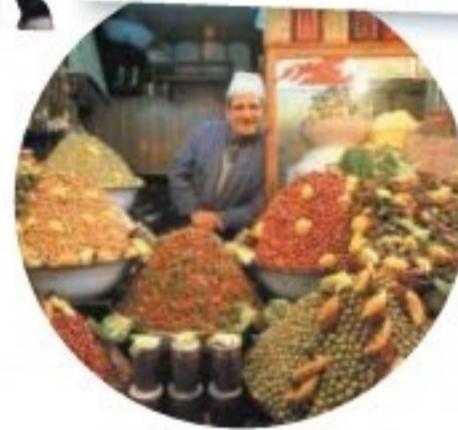
The capital of a modern kingdom, Rabat stands out from the other great Moroccan cities for its elegance, its relaxed atmosphere, and a charming sense of carelessness. A visit to the city benefits from an attitude of being open to going wherever your mood takes you, as you can lose yourself in the medina and the narrow alleys of the kasbah, discovering art galleries and taking in the stun-

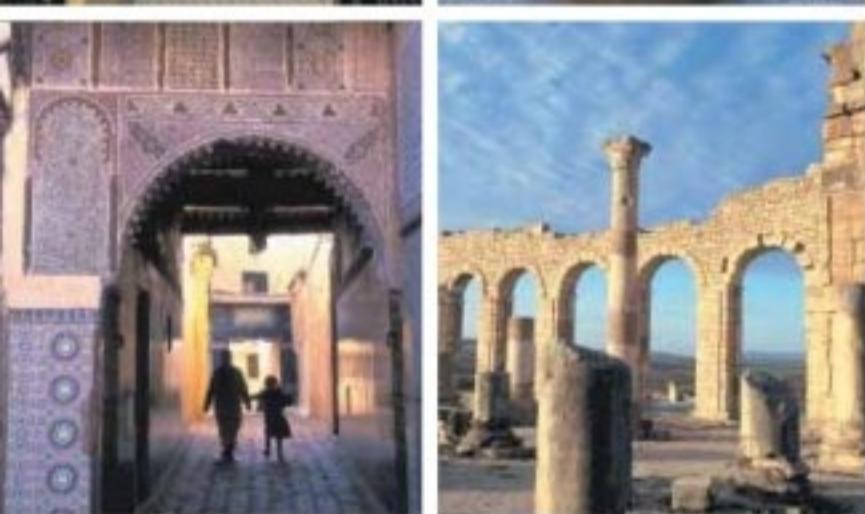
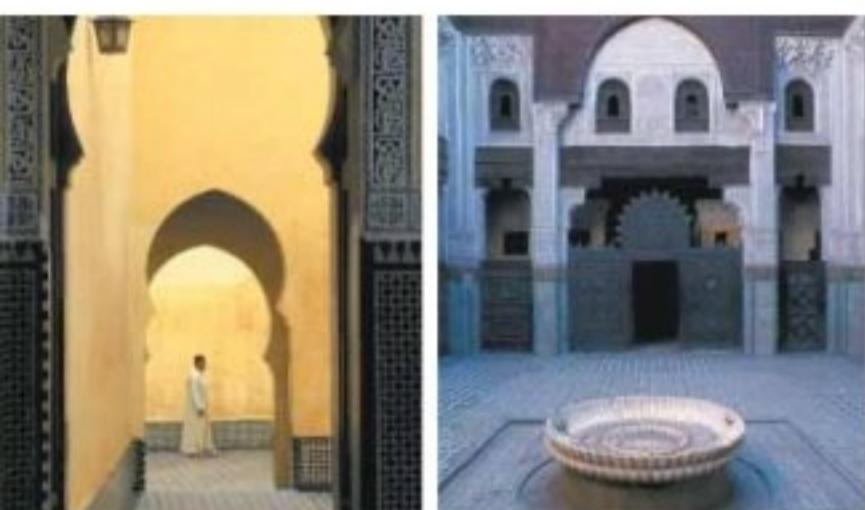
ning views of the ocean. This is where authenticity and modernity come together in beautiful harmony.

The history of the city is best discovered by foot, wandering alongside monuments which represent every age from the Phoenician era to that of the Merinid dynasty. Start off in the picturesque, ancient quarter of the Oudaïas Kasbah, a fortress built

on top of a promontory, offering an unforgettable view of the river Bou Regreg which separates Rabat from Salé, the other historical seat of power with its ancestral charms. Hassan Tower, the landmark of the city, stands on this hill for over eight centuries now.

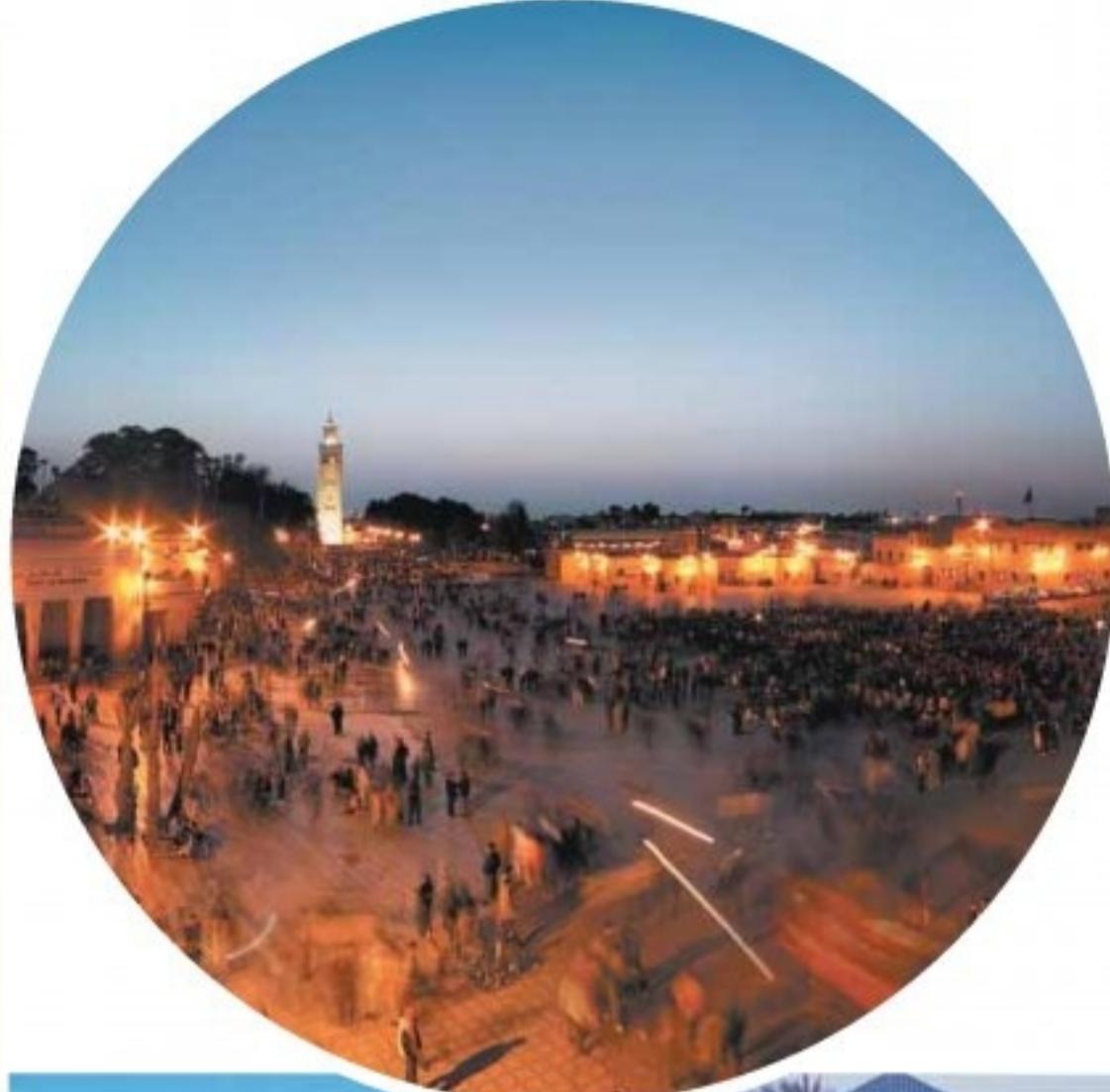
After your daily dose of culture, enjoy a stroll along Rue des Consuls, where you are at the mercy of a multitude of





shops and stalls with their artisans and merchants. This is not only a feast for the eyes, but the ideal spot for some haggling over those essential souvenirs. Moreover, it will give you the opportunity to sample the reputable local cuisine before heading for the necropolis of Chellah, which is at its very best at sunset. In the spring, you can be lucky enough to

encounter pairs of storks during their nuptial ballet. In fact, nature is at its most generous near the lakes of Dayet Roumi and Alkanzra, the gardens of Bouknadel and the Maâmora forest. Unless of course you prefer golf, jazz and other lively events. Then Mawazine Festival will be just the thing for you.

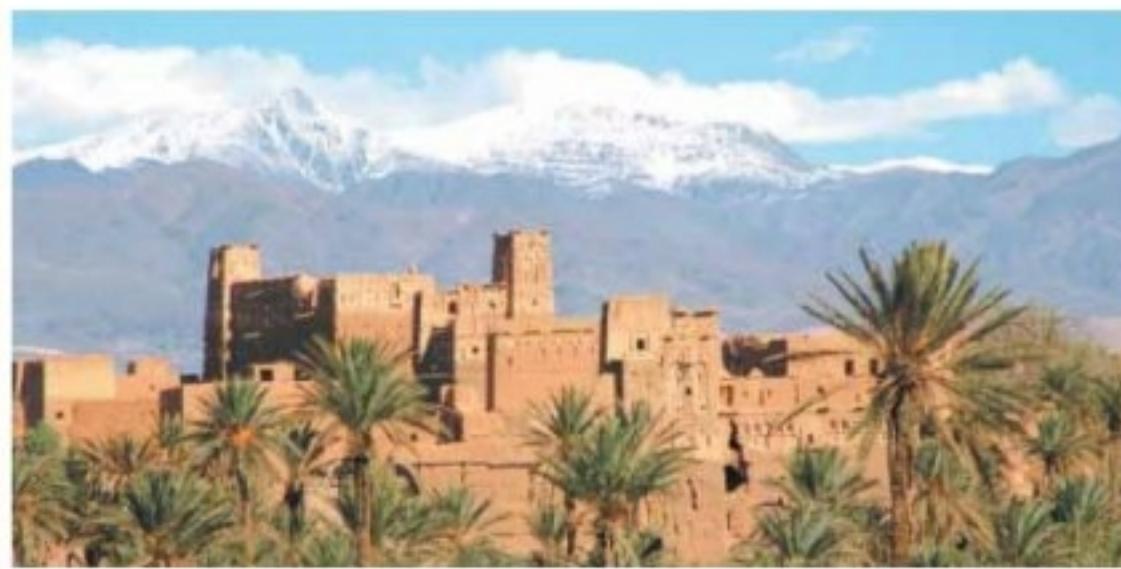


## OUARZAZATE: THE CINEPHILE CITY

For centuries, the inhabitants of the Ziz, Drâa and Dadès valleys used to meet and trade goods at the heart of the vast Taourirt Kasbah – the place where *Star Wars* was filmed. But in the 1920s, the kasbah emerged into a town. That's when Ouarzazate was born. The region has since become the go-to place for cinema crews producing films in need of beautiful countryside with gorges, valleys, palm groves and oases. But when filming stops, cinephiles can have the time of their lives visiting

the Atlas Film Studios, which is located a few kilometres from the town itself, across thirty or so acres of wilderness. Amongst the hundreds of films shot in the region are Bernardo Bertolucci's *The Sheltering Sky* and Martin Scorsese's *Kundun*. The architectural heritage here is also impressive, with countless ksour and kasbahs such as Ait Benhaddou, the storks' kasbah and that of Tamnougalt. For nature lovers, nothing is more tempting than the mountains, gorges, valleys and the surround-

ing desert. The Dadès and Todgha gorges and the Dadès and M'goun valleys are immensely popular, and it is no doubt worth taking a small excursion to discover the beauty and diversity of the landscapes around Merzouga, Zagora and the archaeological sites of the Draâ Valley. For true fans of the desert, there is always the Marathon des Sables, a race taking place for the 27th time between 6 and 16 April 2012. What better way to discover the stunning light and vibrant colours of this wild landscape?

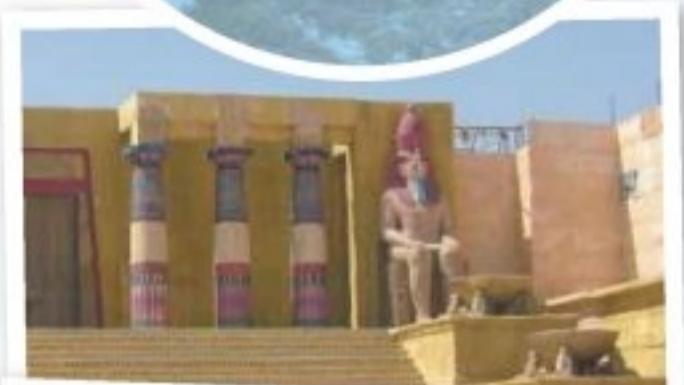


## MARRAKECH: THE FASCINATING CITY

Close to the desert, with the Atlas Mountains as a backdrop, Marrakech almost resembles an open-air stage with its surrounding walls and magnet-like affect on visitors. Groves of palm trees set against snowy mountain tops make it an enticing spot for the keen traveller. In the quiet of a sunny morning, it is a pleasure to wander inside the walls of Koutoubia, 'the booksellers' 'mosque', discovering the Ben Youssef madrasa, the Menara, the El-Badi Palace and the Bahia Palace. Along the way, artisans of all kinds will make you marvel at the wondrous things on offer; there are blacksmiths, basket market wood turners, dyers, and everything in between. This is an opportunity to immerse yourself in the magic of the souks and truly rediscover all your senses. At sunset, Jemaa el-Fna square comes alive with a

unique open-air spectacle of musicians, fortune-tellers, acrobats, snake charmers and henna tattooists, and you are guaranteed to be not only captivated but blown-away by these scenes of popular tradition.

Yet, there will still be enough time to take in the breath-taking views from the Terrasse des Espices while on a seat made of adobe enjoying a delicious chicken tagine. Why not treat yourself to a luxurious night in a sumptuous riad and some romantic extravagance? Take a beautiful stroll through the Majorelle Gardens, the Agdal Gardens, or the Arsat Moulay Abdeslam cyber park, or discover the preserved inland area around the Ourika valley, lake Lalla Takerkoust, Oukaimden and Toubkal national park. And as always, don't forget your golf bag...



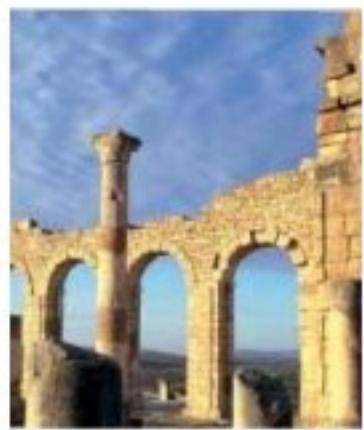
# Morocco's TOP 5



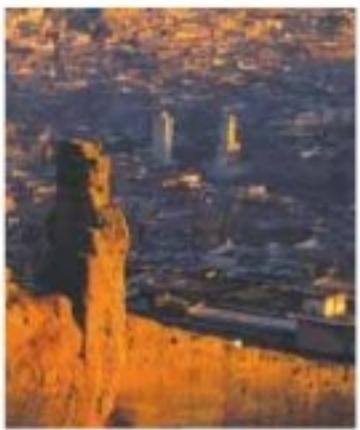
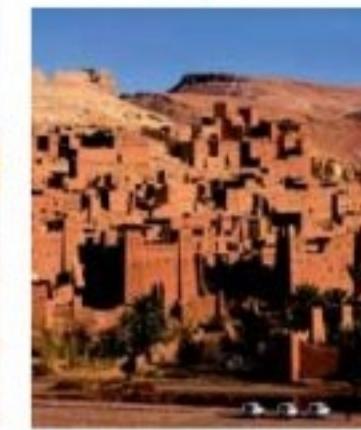
Between the splendours of the past and the charms of the present, there is pleasure waiting to be discovered. Heritage, colours, scents and sights add excitement to the towns and festivals of Morocco every day. Here is our selection.



## To visit: UNESCO World Heritage Sites



VOLUBILIS

THE  
FEZ MEDINAJEMAA  
EL-FNA SQUAREKSAR  
AIT BENHADDOUTETOUAN  
MEDINA

In the heart of a fertile plain, some 30 kilometres north of Meknes, the Roman ruins of Volubilis constitute a protected archaeological site whose splendour is reflected in the mosaics. Best visited early in the morning, or late in the afternoon.

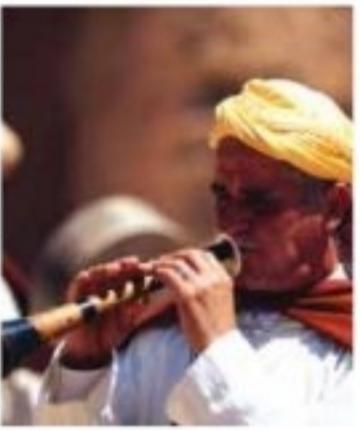
Getting lost in the medina of Fez El-Bali is an immense pleasure, allowing you the time to wander, admire the treasures of age-old knowledge, and rejoice in discoveries that are constantly being renewed. A real feast for the eyes.

Bubbling with excitement from the first light of dawn until late at night, this Marrakech square is like an open-air theatre of never-ending spectacle, where you will find oral tradition and activities of all sorts.

Some 30 kilometres from Ouarzazate, this red-brick kasbah stands on the left bank of the river Mellah and serves as the setting for countless films, including *Lawrence of Arabia*, *The Jewel of the Nile*, *Jesus of Nazareth*, *Gladiator*...

The more Andalusian of the Moroccan medinas, the white medina of Tetouan is full to the brim with artisans specialising in working with gold, silk, and horseshoes. It also opens up onto the Lovers' Garden, perfect for a romantic stroll.

## To discover: festivals of music, popular arts and food

FEZ FESTIVAL  
OF  
WORLD SACRED MUSICMARRAKECH  
POPULAR ARTS  
FESTIVALMAWAZINE  
OF  
ABAT FESTIVALFEZ FESTIVAL  
OF  
CULINARY ARTSTANJAZZ  
IN  
TANGIER

The 18th edition of the festival will take place between 8 and 16 June 2012. Its theme will be 're-enchanting the world and homage will be paid to the Persian poet Omar Khayyam. A meeting place for lovers of the song and rhythms of the cultures across the globe.

This folk festival takes place every year across a dozen stages in the town of Marrakech, providing an insight into the cultural wealth of the sixteen regions of the kingdom. This year, in the presence of almost 500 artists, the festival will take place from 29 June to 3 July.

In May 2012, the eleventh edition of the Mawazine Rhythms of the World festival will open up to all imaginable cultures, offering the audience a range of sounds and rhythms doubtlessly worthy of one of the world's greatest music festivals.

All the richness of Moroccan cuisine is coming to Fez to seduce your taste buds and promote the culinary arts across the world in a constant dialogue between cultures where researchers, designers and chemists all have their place.

Musicians from Morocco and beyond come together to perform just about everywhere: in the palace, in the hotels, on stage, and simply in the street, where the crowd happily participates in what has become a legendary meeting of east and west.

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3D (G) 11:00

MARGIN CALL (R) Fri and Sat

1:20, 3:40, 6:00, 8:20, 10:40; Sun

1:20-3:40-6:00-8:20

MATILDA (PG) Sun 4:00

MY PIECE OF THE PIE (MA PART

DU GATEAU) (NR) Fri and Sat

10:45, 1:05, 3:20, 5:45, 8:05,

10:25; Sun 10:45-1:05-3:20-5:45-

8:05.

Film Society Lincoln Center

- Walter Reade Theater

212-875-5600

Lincoln Center & W. 65th St.

BARCELONA, ABANS QUE EL

TEMPS HO ESBORRI (NR) Sun

4:45

COUSINHOOD (PRIMOS) (NR)

Sun 7:00

DO NOT BE AFRAID (NR) Fri 9:15

EVERY SONG IS ABOUT ME

(TODAS LAS CANCIONES

HABLAN DE MI) (NR) Sat 6:00

THE EXECUTIONER (1963) (NR)

Fri 3:20

EXTRATERRESTRIAL

(EXTRATERRESTRE) (NR) Fri

6:15

ISPANSI (SPAINARDS) (NR) Fri

1:00

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA:

FAUST LIVE (NR) Sat 1:00

PLACIDO (1961) (NR) Sun 2:45

TORRENTE 4: LETHAL CRISIS

(TORRENTE 4: CRISIS LETA) (NR) Sat 8:45

THE WAVES (LAS OLAS) (NR)

Sun 9:15

WELCOME MR. MARSHALL!

(BIENVENIDO MISTER

MARSHALL) (NR) Sun 12:45

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THE DESCENDANTS (R)

Fri and Sat 10:15, 11:15, 12:15,

1:10, 2:15, 3:15, 4:15, 5:15, 6:15,

7:15, 8:15, 9:15, 10:15, 11:15,

12:15:C INDEPENDENT; Digital

Presentation; Sun 10:15-11:15-

12:15-1:10-2:15-3:15-4:15-5:15-

6:15-7:15-8:15-9:15-10:15-11:15:C

INDEPENDENT; Digital

Presentation

THE DIRTY PICTURE (NR) 11:50,

3:30, 7:05, 10:40; Digital

Presentation

THE GREATEST MIRACLE 3D (EL

GRAN MILAGRO 3D) (PG)

Fri and Sat 10:10, 12:30, 3:00,

5:25, 7:50, 10:20, 12:45:C INDE-

PENDENT; RealID 3D; Sun 10:10-

12:30-3:00-5:25-7:50-10:20:C

INDEPENDENT; RealID 3D

HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) Fri 10:20,

1:20, 9:30, 12:05; Digital

Presentation; Sat 12:25-3:05-

6:40-11:30; Digital

Presentation; Sun 12:25-3:05-5:

45-8:25-11:05; Digital

Presentation

HAPPY FEET TWO IN 3D (PG) Fri

12:25, 3:05, 4:45, 8:25, 11:05;

RealID 3D; Sat 10:20-1:20-4:05-

6:40-9:20-12:05; RealID 3D; Sun

10:20-1:20-4:05-6:40-9:20-

12:00; RealID 3D

HAPPY FEET TWO: AN IMAX 3D

EXPERIENCE (PG) Fri and Sat

11:25, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10,

12:50; IMAX 3D; Sun 11:25-2:10-

4:50-7:30-10:10; IMAX 3D

HUGO (PG) Fri and Sat 12:35,

3:40, 6:45, 9:50, 12:35; Digital

Presentation; Sun 12:35-3:40-

6:45-9:50; Digital

Presentation

HUGO 3D (PG) Fri 10:30, 11:30,

1:35, 2:35, 4:40, 5:40, 7:45, 8:45,

10:50, 11:50; RealID 3D; Sat 10:30-

11:30-1:35-2:35-4:40-5:45-7:45-

8:45-10:50-11:50; RealID 3D; Sun

10:30-11:30-1:35-2:35-4:40-5:40-

7:45-8:45-10:50-11:50; RealID 3D

THE IDES OF MARCH (R) 1:45,

7:35; Digital

Presentation

IN TIME (PG-13) Fri 10:45, 1:40,

4:25, 7:10, 9:55, 12:35; Digital

Presentation; Sat 1:40-9:55-

12:35; Digital

Presentation

J. EDGAR (R) 12:05, 3:15, 6:30,

9:45; Digital

Presentation

JACK AND JILL (PG) Fri and Sat

10:55, 12:10, 1:25, 2:40, 3:55, 5:10,

6:25, 7:40, 8:55, 10:10, 11:25,

Film Society Lincoln Center

12:30. Digital Presentation; Sun

10:55-12:10-1:25-2:40-3:55-5:10-

6:25-7:40-8:55-10:10-11:25.

Digital Presentation

KINYARWANDA (NR) Fri and Sat

3:50, 9:10, 11:55:C INDEPEND-

ENT; Digital Presentation; Sun

3:50-9:10-11:50:C INDEPEND-

ENT; Digital Presentation

LIKE CRAZY (PG-13) Fri 10:50,

1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:10:C

INDEPENDENT; Digital

Presentation

THE DESCENDANTS (R)

Fri and Sat 11:30, 1:00, 2:20, 3:50,

5:10, 6:40, 7:50, 9:40, 10:40;

12:25; Sun 11:30-1:00-2:20-3:50-

5:10-6:40-7:50-9:40-10:40.

HAPPY FEET TWO (PG) 11:10,

4:55, 10:50

HAPPY FEET TWO IN 3D (PG)

2:05, 7:40, RealID 3D

Digital Presentation

MAGIC TO WIN (KAI XIN MO FA)

(NR) 12:20, 2:55, 5:30, 8:05,

10:45; Digital

Presentation

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA:

FAUST LIVE (NR) Sat 12:55

MONEYBALL (PG-13) 10:25,

12:00, 10:25-12:25.

Digital Presentation

MY WEEK WITH MARILYN (R)

Fri and Sat 12:00, 1:10, 2:25-3:55-

5:45-6:45-7:45-8:45-9:45.

Digital Presentation

THE PUPPETS (PG) 11:15, 12:15,

1:30, 2:30-3:30-4:30-5:30-6:30-

7:30-8:30-9:30-10:30.

Digital Presentation

THE SITTER (R)

Fri and Sat 11:00, 12:00, 1:00,

2:00, 3:00-4:00-5:00-6:00-7:00-

8:00

# Firth under wraps

► Last year's best actor Oscar winner Colin Firth resurfaces with critical hit, 'Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy'  
 ► His newfound acclaim affords the British actor to finally say, 'It's none of your business'

**A** British man glides to his chair, the clean-cut sweater and collared shirt combination highlighting his noticeably trim physique and glowing complexion. Colin Firth — aka everyone's favorite Mr. Darcy — has arrived.

The dapper 51-year-old

is in the midst of promoting the release of his latest film, "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy," a Cold War spy thriller based on John le Carré's best-selling novel. Firth plays a MI6 agent who may or may not have been a mole for Kremlin while working in Scotland Yard in 1973.

But don't expect this tale of international intrigue to be anything like a James Bond film or something from the Bourne series.

"I love the 'Bourne' films, and I think if you love the 'Bourne' films it doesn't mean that you can't love this," Firth says.

There are many things

that distinguish the subtle "Tinker, Tailor" from the typical tale of betrayal on an international level, which might be why it's earning so much advance praise by the critics.

"It's not about macho effectiveness or hard-bitten heroism," Firth says. "It's actually much more about fragility and loneliness and disappointed idealism. These men are seen to be broken, all of them, on some level."

As open as he was to discuss the film, Firth was less forthcoming on other topics. It seems like being awarded the Oscar for best actor for "The King's Speech" has freed the actor to demand privacy regarding his personal life.

"Most of it is none of

**'Would Colin Firth make a good spy?' by Colin Firth**

"No, no. If you are a good actor, there are certain skills that apply to spying, like being deceitful, being able to second-guess other people's motives, being forensic about other people's lives while they do what they do. But you also have to have a great deal of physical courage in the face of peril, and I don't [know many actors who] would be great candidates in the face of having a gun pointed at [them]."

your business," he says gently. "I don't mean that rudely."

But what we really wanted to know was what life is like after winning an Oscar. Firth obliged by saying although the offers to star in an action film are non-existent, there has been pressure from some in his camp to expand the scope of his projects.

"I'd have to admit that, yeah, there have been certain people around me who think it's a good time to get a bit richer," he says. "But not as much as you might think. ... I don't think people consider me to be incredibly valuable financially, really."

**SALLY MORRIS**  
letters@metro.us



► Colin Firth is the "tailor" of the title "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy" because of his character's affinity for slick duds.

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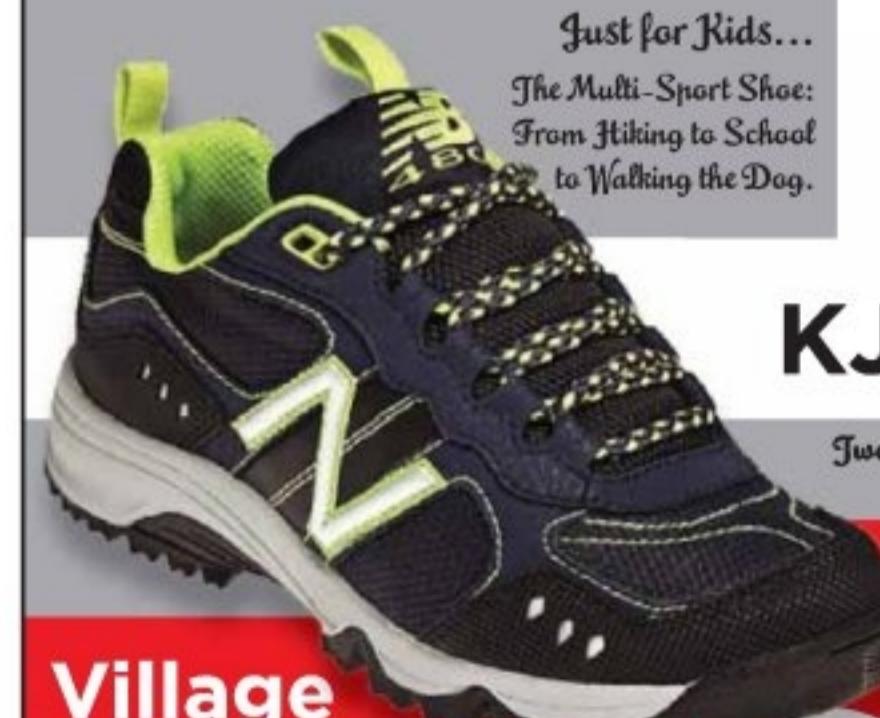
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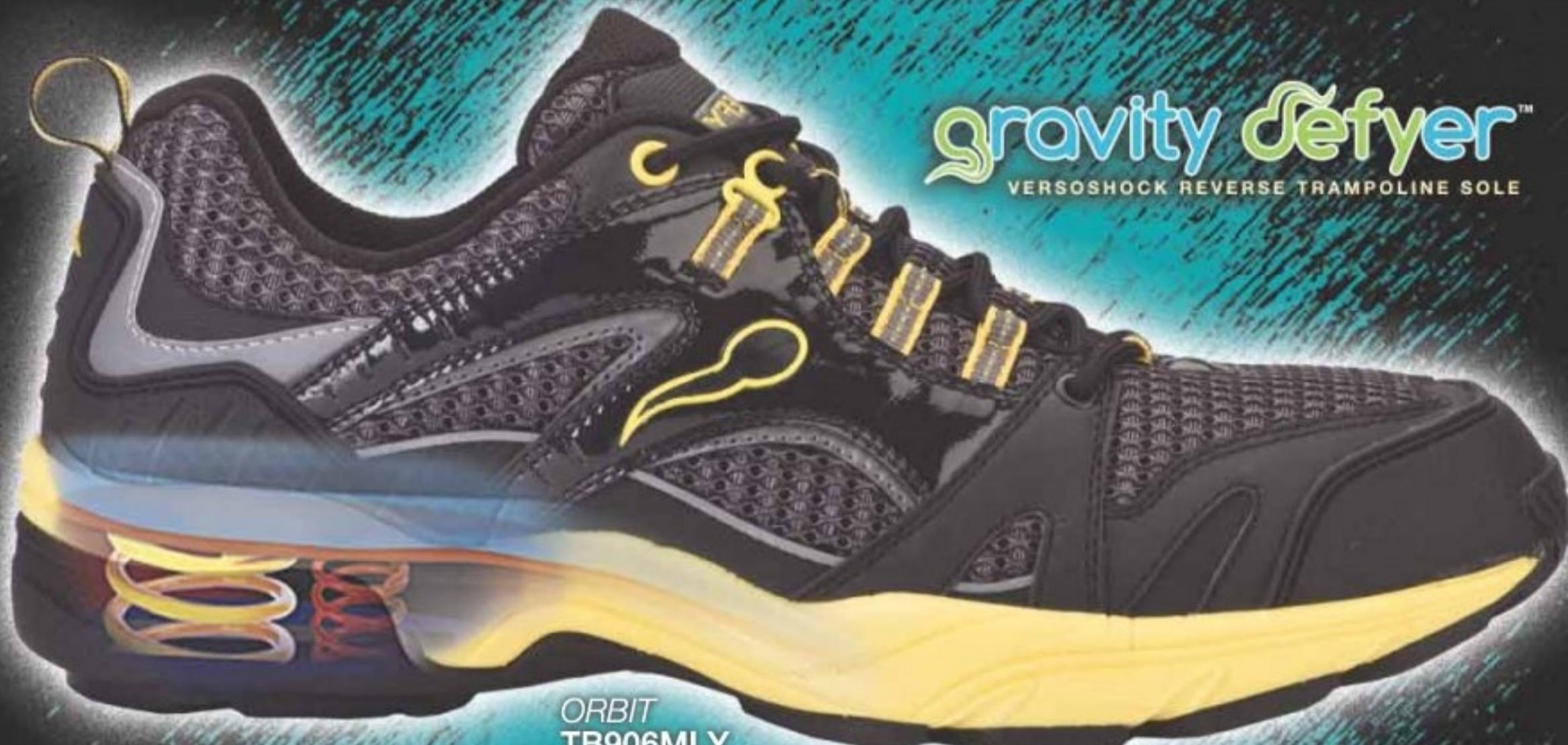
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\$5.00 1795-1804.....	up to..... \$10,000..... \$50,000
\$10.00 1795-1804.....	up to..... \$10,500..... \$50,000
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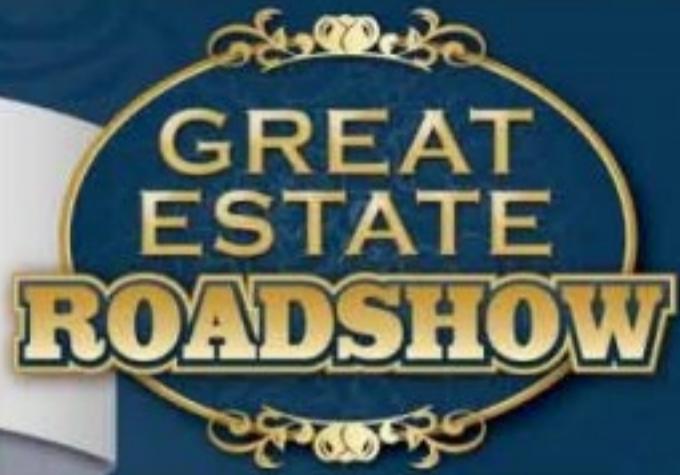


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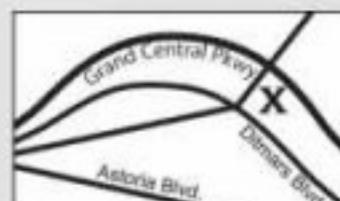
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While talking about her latest film, 'Young Adult,' Theron reveals excruciating details of her awkward youth. Why she doesn't think she needs another best-actress Oscar

It would probably be nice for Charlize Theron to get an Oscar for her performance in Jason Reitman's latest film, "Young Adult." Most critics seem to think she deserves one. But Theron herself notes: "I can't even think about anything like that. ... Plus, I have an Oscar," she says, referencing her win for 2003's "Monster." She catches herself with a laugh. "That was such an asshole thing to say."

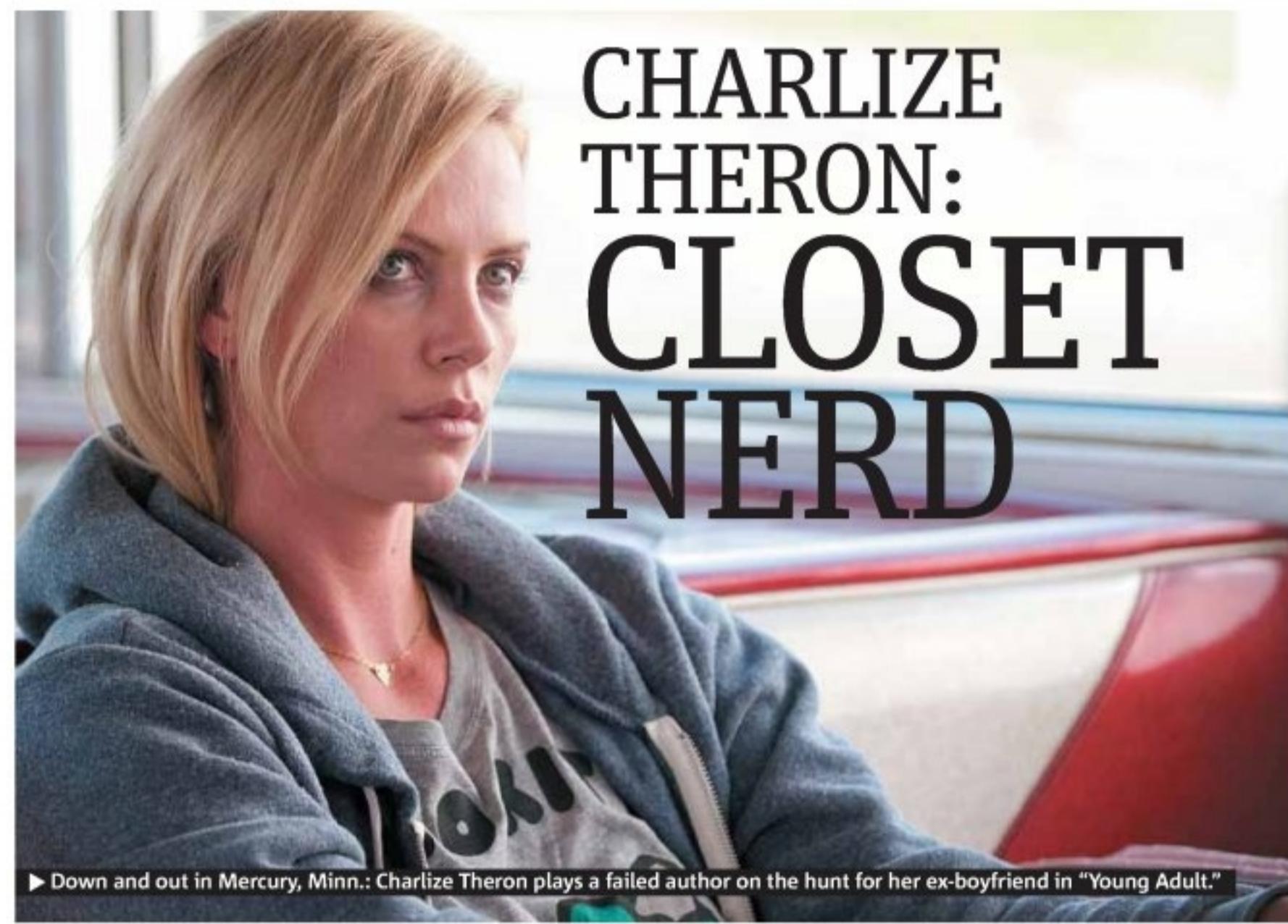
Maybe the 36-year-old is just channeling her inner jerk — because that's the nature of her character in the film, Mavis Gary, a divorced young adult author and all-around mess. Gary returns to her hometown to track down her high school boyfriend, now married with a new baby, in the hopes of rekindling their romance. While promoting the film, which was penned by Oscar-winning screenwriter Diablo Cody, Theron candidly revealed some of her own Mavis-like behavior.

So much of the press for this film discusses what an unsympathetic character

**Mavis is. Can you talk about how you see her and the idea of going against type?**

What I liked when I read Diablo's script was the idea of a woman who is dealing with very common mid-to-late-30s issues that women can really relate to. But because of how she went through life, [Mavis] is dealing with them the way a 16-year-old would deal with them. She says things like, "Don't you know love conquers all?" I mean, it's like the typical 16-year-old would say that, and here she is, 37, trying to get her life together. She just does not have the tools to do it. **With this and "Bridesmaids," we're seeing more of women behaving badly. Do you consider this a step forward?**

I talked a lot about this when I did "Monster." I think people get kind of freaked out when they see real women conflicted. I think women are almost way more conflicted than men. And I think we come from a society where we're very comfortable with the Madonna-whore complex. We're either really good hookers or really good mothers. But we're not bad



► Down and out in Mercury, Minn.: Charlize Theron plays a failed author on the hunt for her ex-boyfriend in "Young Adult."

PHILLIP K. CARUSO

#### Quoted

**"I think people get kind of freaked out when they see real women conflicted. I think women are almost way more conflicted than men."**

—THERON

hookers and we're not bad mothers and we're nothing in between.

**Mavis is still caught up with who she was in high school. What kind of high school student were you?**

I was pretty much a mess after primary school. I really experienced more of that stuff from the ages of 7 to 12, when there was a really popular girl in my school

and I was obsessed with her. You'd go to jail for that stuff today. I'm so embarrassed to say this but I was in tears one day because I couldn't sit next to her. I have issues.

I wasn't in the popular crowd. I was obsessed with ballet. I wore really, really nerdy glasses. I was as blind as could be, and boys don't really like big nerdy

glasses. I had a massive crush on this guy that this interviewer who just did a story on me for Vogue actually found. This guy did not know I existed in school and he was all, "Yeah, tell her the crush was mutual." F— that. It was so not mutual.

**HEIDI PATALANO**  
heidi.patalano@metro.us

## Diablo Cody grows up

Some of us peaked in high school. And some of us, despite several years distance from that period in our lives, have remained in a state of arrested development ever since. But there's never been someone quite as stuck in the past as Mavis Gary (Theron), a 37-year-old ghostwriter for a young adult series. In between whiskey-induced blackouts and Kardashian family reruns, Mavis obsesses over her high school boyfriend Buddy (Wilson), who has just become a father. Determined to win him back, she travels to her hometown — but seducing Buddy away from his happy family life isn't the slam



COURTESY OF PARAMOUNT PICTURES

► Obviously, Mavis' (Theron) plan to get Buddy (Wilson) back is not working out quite like she expected.

#### If you go

##### ► 'Young Adult'

**Director:** Jason Reitman  
**Cast:** Charlize Theron, Patrick Wilson, Patton Oswalt  
**Rating:** R **Grade:** **★★★★**

dunk she thought it would be.

One of the hallmarks of a film script by Diablo Cody is its embrace of teen-speak — Juno could very well end up in Mavis' shoes if things went south with the Michael Cera character.

But as much as Mavis' eye-rolling and sarcastic comebacks are similar to those Cody has written into other scripts, the screenwriter has achieved something heartbreakingly accurate in attaching that language to a deluded, alcoholic woman facing a nervous breakdown amid so many personal failures. That language is more of a sign of her stagnation and immaturity than a cheap entertainment trick.

While engaging and at times hilarious, "Young Adult" is unafraid to go to that dark, scary place that makes the film incredibly unique, uncompromising and rewarding.

—METRO/HP

#### Also opening

##### ‘W.E.’

His stuttering brother may have stolen the spotlight last year with "The King's Speech," but this year, King Edward VIII has filmgoers' attention. Directed by Madonna, the film offers a sympathetic portrait of the man who gave up the English throne in order to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

##### ‘I Melt With You’

Four 40-something college friends gather annually to celebrate their wild past by taking copious amounts of drugs in a small seaside town. Like "The Hangover" on

psychedelics and some serious downers, this film shows the dark downward spiral the friends take when they decide to honor a morbid pact they made when they were young.

##### ‘We Need to Talk About Kevin’

How does a mother handle the aftermath of a high school massacre that was committed by her own son? As Eva (Tilda Swinton) tries to reassemble a life, she is haunted by the menacing clues her son left for her throughout the time she raised him. John C. Reilly portrays the trusting father who could never believe their son's disturbing behavior was ever anything more than childish pranks.

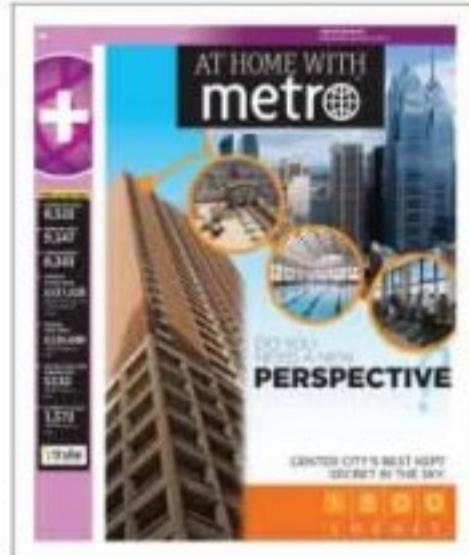
—METRO/HP

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in the

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2012

January 9-13: We'll feature a five-day guide series to support 2012 with special features in each weekly My Metro section.



**MONDAY**

## Education

Hot majors in 2012.

## Jobs

We'll prepare you with what you need to know before you begin the search.

**TUESDAY**

## Travel

The top must-see destinations of 2012.

**WEDNESDAY**

## Real Estate

Predictions, new developments and a fresh start: getting your home organized and ready for 2012.

**FRIDAY**

## Going Out

New trends in food and drink featuring our picks from foodies, bartenders and chefs. Plus, the most anticipated restaurants of the new year.

## Weekend

The new faces in entertainment: The artists in film, music, TV and arts that you need to know.

**NEW**



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**MONDAY**

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## Dating

PLUS: With our Health and Wellbeing section now 4 days a week, we'll give you the extensive 2012 guide to the latest in medical procedures, fitness breakthroughs, diets, parenting and more!

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## The feed ...

On Fridays, Dorothy will post the best tweets she received during the week. You can always let her know what you think — good or bad — at [@dorothyatmetro](http://dorothyatmetro).

This week, [@christys9675](http://christys9675) wants more gossip about Paula Abdul (the "X Factor" star needs to be more drunk before that happens), [@Everlong13](http://Everlong13) wants a little Word love, [@v0xtheriot](http://v0xtheriot) liked my tin foil cap last weekend (I did too!), [@jmezzabarba](http://jmezzabarba) thinks Courtney Love being Lohan's sober coach is a good idea and [@xanderall](http://xanderall) was made to feel old.

► [@christys9675](http://christys9675) One of my favorite sources of gossip is The Word. Please add some Paula Abdul into it, please, [@dorothyatmetro](http://dorothyatmetro)?

► [@Everlong13](http://Everlong13) you know, I wish I was important enough to have a tweet in the metro. Or to have that check near my name. #EpicSadFace

► [@v0xtheriot](http://v0xtheriot) I loll at your tin foil cap. Now i want to watch signs and eat hersheys kisses.

► [@jmezzabarba](http://jmezzabarba) ur article on [@CourtneyLove](http://CourtneyLove) being a sobriety coach was ill informed. Reformed addicts help addicts. Duh.

► [@xanderall](http://xanderall) Thank you Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and [@dorothyatmetro](http://dorothyatmetro) for making me feel ancient. :S



Abdul

# THE WORD



Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip **t** [@dorothyatmetro](http://dorothyatmetro) **m** [dorothy.robinson@metro.us](mailto:dorothy.robinson@metro.us)

## Is it 'Lauer, out!' at 'Today'?

**R**umor has it that NBCUniversal is courting **Ryan Seacrest** to replace **Matt Lauer** on the "Today" show next year.

Although Lauer hasn't announced his retirement, he has hinted at it quite seriously, and NBC wants someone big to replace him. And it's starting to look like that someone is our generation's version of **Dick Clark**.

The Wall Street Journal announced the news of the courting on Thursday but so far NBC is keeping mum on the speculation. A "Today" spokesperson went on record about the move, saying, "there seems to be an awful lot of speculation around news anchors these

days, and it's not our practice to comment on any of it. Matt Lauer has a long-term contract with NBC News and 'Today'."

Here's the thing: Seacrest is an amazing entertainer and host and deserves all the success that comes with his self-made media empire. But does the guy have the chops to report on something as heavy as, say, 9/11? He's too tan. Too involved in the Kardashians. Too smiley.

But maybe that's me just being a Hollywood-ist. And maybe what the show needs is Seacrest interviewing a head of state and then ending it with his trademark, "Seacrest, out!" What do you think about this? Write in to let me know.

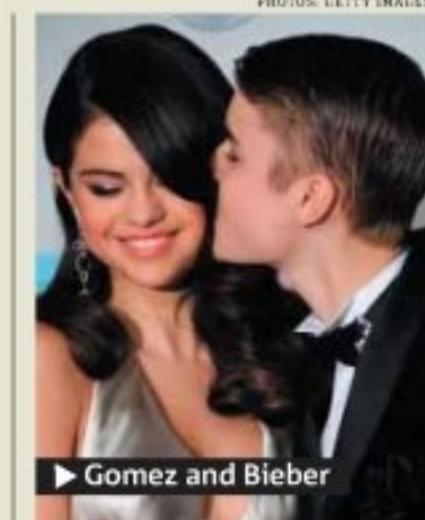


Is this the face  
you'll see  
first thing  
in the morning?



### Sorry, Adele! Radcliffe is tops

Entertainment Weekly has dubbed **Daniel Radcliffe** its Entertainer of the Year. The magazine was torn between the "Harry Potter" star and singer **Adele**, but Radcliffe won out due to his success in the massive film franchise and on Broadway. "[Radcliffe is] the nicest guy with one of the brightest futures in Hollywood. There's nothing he can't do. Ultimately, there was one person who made the most sense," says editor Jess Cagle. "Despite all his wealth and fame as a teenager, he never derailed."



PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

her reps are quick to quash any speculation. "She is not engaged," they insist to Us Weekly. While 19-year-old Gomez and 17-year-old Bieber aren't ready to tie the knot, they are actually in Cabo San Lucas for a wedding in which Gomez is serving as a bridesmaid.

### Get ready for a long divorce!

While definitely separated, **Jennifer Lopez** and **Marc Anthony** haven't actually filed for divorce yet, and sources tell Radar Online that the former

### Talking points

#### Lohan's cover leaked

The cover of **Lindsay Lohan**'s issue of Playboy has leaked a week ahead of its unveiling, according to Hollyscoop. The vintage-themed cover features a naked Lohan straddling a red chair in the shape of the Playboy bunny logo that strategically blocks certain parts of her body. "The pictorial is absolutely fantastic and very tasteful, and will be accompanied

by an interview that will let readers see another side of Lindsay," her rep has said of the magazine's content. Lohan is still set to appear on **Ellen DeGeneres'** show next week to officially unveil the issue and give her first interview since violating her parole.

#### Gomez not engaged to Bieber (phew)

**Selena Gomez** caused an uproar when she was spotted on vacation in Mexico with **Justin Bieber** sporting a flashy diamond ring, but

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**DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG**

couple is gearing up for a long, drawn-out settlement process. "They have been working out terms of a settlement before they officially file for divorce. There is no rush to do so because both sides agree on the formal date of separation," the source says. "Marc and Jennifer have homes, businesses, and are minority owners of the Miami Dolphins football team. It's complicated, and it could be at least several more months before final terms of the settlement are agreed upon. They will formally file in California, because it's a no fault state."



## Highlights from the year in dresses

1. In August, Beyoncé arrived at the MTV Video Music Awards in a glamorous Lanvin one-shoulder wrap dress that hinted at her baby bump — before making an official announcement in the show segment later in the evening.

2. Blake Lively rocked a bright blue Emilio Pucci dress and a pair of magenta Louboutin heels at the 2011 Elle Style Awards in London, England, in February.

3. At the American Music Awards in Los Angeles in November, Katy Perry got a little political in her pink Vivienne Westwood gown, which featured the Chinese characters of "Lu Se Jing Ji" (Green Economy) — a favorite slogan of the Chinese Communist Party.

4. Kate Middleton was a glorious glow of sunshine in a Jenny Packham dress as she arrived in Canada in July as part of her 2011 North American tour.

5. "Glee" starlet Lea Michele looked exactly like a seasoned showbiz veteran in her red Marchesa dress at the Emmy Awards in Los Angeles in September.

6. Who ever said one could only look fabulous in haute couture? Ginnifer Goodwin got the team from Topshop to design this breathtaking green dress, which she wore to the MET Ball in New York City in May.

7. A very pregnant Jessica Alba attended the 2011 CFDA Fashion Awards at Lincoln Center in a chic dress designed by CFDA President Diane Von Furstenberg in June.

1, 5: STEVE GRANITZ/WIREIMAGE  
2: JON FERRELL/GETTY IMAGES  
3: IR LACROIX/WIREIMAGE  
4: SAMER HUSSSEIN/WIREIMAGE  
6: LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES  
7: JAMIE MACARTHUR/WIREIMAGE



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► "The Simpsons" Christmas episode airs Sunday at 8 p.m. on FOX.

# Long live 'The Simpsons'

► As the series approaches 500 episodes, creator Matt Groening says there's no end in sight — and no shortage of voices

Despite a contract squabble earlier this year that might have brought an end to "The Simpsons," Matt Groening's animated comedy is still kicking — and will be indefinitely, he says. And with the show's 500th episode airing in February, it doesn't look like "The Simpsons" will give up its title of longest-running American prime-time series anytime soon. But how does a comedy stay fresh after 23 seasons? And what would an eventual end look like? Series creator Groening says he doesn't plan to be around to find out.



► Groening: Real and animated.

Do you know how the show is going to end? Do you have the last episode in mind?

I think everybody who works on the show has a secret final episode in mind. However, we inadvertently, accidentally might have already animated one we thought might be the final

episode, and that is our Christmas episode coming up, which shows the Simpsons in the future. It's a very sweet and touching episode as well, and there's a great scene of adult Bart and adult Lisa together talking about their family, in the tree house. They're up in Bart's tree house, and they're drunk, which we've never been able to do.

You got a bit of press over contract negotiations earlier, with talk of the series ending. How did that get worked out? This is a dilemma that most TV shows face at some point. As the years go by, people get raises. The

show gets more expensive, and at a certain point, financially, a decision has to be made. And our decision was we were cutting the budget, so we can keep the show going forever. What we learned from this was how much the people who work on the show love the show.

Do you have any plans for life after "The Simpsons"?

I think we're going to keel over while doing this show. We don't see any end in sight.

**NED EHRRBAR**

METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES

## TV watch list

### 'Boardwalk Empire'

DRAMA. Jimmy's looking to make things right, but



with Nucky's trial looming and Margaret considering an offer from federal prosecutor Esther Randolph, there are no sure bets in Atlantic City in Sunday's season finale. Season finale, Sunday, 9 p.m., HBO

### 'Boss'

DRAMA. Chicago mayor Tom Kane's (Kelsey Grammer) plan to eliminate corruption in his administration: destroy everyone who has ever wronged him.

Season finale, Friday, 10 p.m., HBO

AMBER RAY

## Is Worship Supposed to Impress People or God?

"God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth."

John 4:24

Much that is done in church worship services is designed and arranged to please and impress those in attendance. In the Bible, worship is directed toward God -- in fact, Jesus warned about doing anything in worship to impress people (Mat. 6). Visit with us if you are looking for people expressing praise to God. You will not find a show to entertain the people.

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### NEWLY CONSTRUCTED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

El Milagro Apartments is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for 63 affordable housing rental apartments now under construction at 1800 Southern Boulevard in the Crotona Park section of The Bronx. This building is being constructed through the New Housing Opportunities Program (NEW HOP) of the New York City Housing Development Corporation (HDC), and the Multi-Family Rental - Mod/Mid Program of the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD). The size, rent, and targeted income distribution for the 63 apartments are as follows:

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13	Studio	1	\$872	\$31,680 - \$57,300	
2	1 Bedroom	1	\$819	\$29,932 - \$34,380	
		2		\$29,932 - \$38,000	
4	1 Bedroom	1-2	\$1,096	\$39,497 - \$65,500	
		2		\$36,034 - \$58,300	
		3		\$36,034 - \$44,220	
		4		\$36,034 - \$48,060	
9	2 Bedroom	2	\$995		
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30	2 Bedroom	1/0	\$1,322	\$47,248 - \$65,500	
		2		\$47,248 - \$73,700	
		3-4		\$47,248 - \$81,800	

\*Subject to Occupancy Criteria. \*\*Includes gas for cooking. \*\*\*Income guidelines subject to change.

† Households of 2 or more will be given preference for 2 bedroom units.

Qualified Applicants will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria. To request an application, mail a SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE to: El Milagro Apartments c/o: The Wavecrest Management Team, 87-14 116th Street, Richmond Hill, NY 11418, or download from [www.elmilagroapts.com](http://www.elmilagroapts.com). Completed applications must be returned by regular mail only (no priority, certified, registered, express or overnight mail will be accepted) to a post office box number that will be listed with the application, and must be postmarked by 2/10/12. Applications postmarked after 2/10/12 will be set aside for possible future consideration. Applications will be selected by lottery. Applicants who submit more than one application will be disqualified. Disqualified applicants will not be accepted. A general preference will be given to New York City residents. Current and eligible residents of Bronx Community Board 3 will receive preference for 50% of the units. Eligible households that include persons with mobility impairments will receive preference for 8% of the units; eligible persons that include persons with visual and/or hearing impairments will receive preference for 2% of the units; and eligible City of New York Municipal Employees will receive a preference for 5% of the units.

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**Exhibitions**

**John Chonko: 'Scanwiches'**  
Through Sunday, J555 Gallery, 55 Clinton St., free

Jon Chonko has created a cult following simply by making or buying lunch and scanning his creations on a flatbed scanner. His prints have included interesting and unexpected combos as well as classic subs. Minimalist and tasty — our favorite kind of art. **WHITNEY EDEN**

**'Joaquín Sorolla and the Glory of Spanish Dress'**

Through March 10, Queen Sofia Spanish Institute, 684 Park Ave., \$15

Oscar de la Renta and "Vogue" rep Andre Leon Talley present this seminal exhibition on Spanish regional dress that pairs the paintings of Joaquin

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Sorolla y Bastida (1863-1923) with the costumes by contemporary designers Yves Saint Laurent, Christian Lacroix, Alexander McQueen, Karl Lagerfeld, and more. **ROZALIA JOVANOVIC**

**Mick Rock**

Through Dec. 28, W Hotel Downtown, 123 Washington St., free

Mick Rock has been dubbed "the man who shot the '70s," but after capturing Andy Warhol, Lou Reed, Syd Barrett and Queen, he went on to shoot the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and Lady Gaga. Since 2008, Rock photographed W's Symmetry Live concerts, featuring Janelle Monae, Cee Lo and more. **TANJA M. LADEN**

**Performing arts**

**Works & Process: 'Peter & the Wolf'**  
Saturday and Sunday, 2:30 p.m., Guggenheim Museum, 1071 5th Ave., \$10-\$30

Set to the classic haunting music of Prokofiev's "Peter the Wolf," fashion icon Isaac Misrahi narrates the tale of the boy who defies his grandfather's orders and liberates a village from a voracious beast. **BJ**

**'Naked Holidays 2011'**  
Through Dec. 30, Times Square Arts Center, 300 W. 43rd St., \$23.50 w/ promo code FLAVORPILL

EndTimes Productions is a company known for irreverence, but the troupe's annual

# THE RUNDOWN

► Metro's guide to what's happening in your city this week



"Naked Holidays" revue is perhaps its sauciest production. Watch a pro wrestler get in the holiday spirit in "The Annihilator", mutinous reindeer in "Dead-Nosed" and the ostensibly self-explanatory "Naked People Play." Leave the kids at home; this revelry is blessedly R-rated. **LEAH TAYLOR**

**'Searching for Agent C'**

Friday, 9 p.m., Gowanus Studio Space, 166 Seventh St., Brooklyn, free

When "Twin Peaks" ended, the implication was that Agent Dale Cooper, lover of pie and protector of the innocent, would be forever lost. Through art, performance, and ephemera, Michelle Levy attempts to reclaim both the idea and the person of Agent C. We have a feeling this will be both wonderful and strange. **RUSS MARSHALEK**

**Party**

**Santacon 2011**  
Saturday, Various locations, free

Grab your best Santa outfit (creativity encouraged but not required), and prepare to unleash your inner Kris Kringle with hundreds of like-minded folks for an afternoon of chaos, cocktail consumption and crazy carol singing. **MINDY BOND**

**Music**

**Morgan Page**  
Saturday, 10 p.m., Webster Hall, 125 E. 11th St., \$35

House music fans are already well aware of Morgan Page's ability to command a room. The stop on Page's "In the Air" tour spotlights something else too: his new focus on songcraft. **BL**

**Film**

**'Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles'**  
Saturday, 8 p.m., 92Y Tribeca, 200 Hudson St., \$12

This live-action 1990 homage to pizza and radioactive pets is screened as part of this month's BG theme: Rubber Suited Classics. So get ready for Leonardo (leads), Donatello (does machines), Raphael (cool, but rude), Michaelangelo (party dude). Cowabunga! **LR**

**Shopping**

**Shop Local**  
Sunday, Various Lower East Side locations, free  
Do some holiday shopping on the LES and score some great discounts at the same.

Boutiques like Any Old Iron, Giselle, Epaulet, Jodama and Skunkfunk are offering price cuts from 15%-50% off; Babeland has a free workshop with complimentary gift bags; Maraya Cigar is hosting a free cigar tasting! **LR**

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## Atlantic City

**Music**

**Olivia Newton-John**  
Friday, 9 p.m.  
Caesars Atlantic City  
\$55-\$85, 609-348-4411  
[www.caesarsac.com](http://www.caesarsac.com)

**Anthony Hamilton**  
Saturday, 10 p.m.  
House of Blues in Showboat  
\$30-\$50, 609-343-5700  
[www.showboataac.com](http://www.showboataac.com)

**Kenny G.**  
Saturday, 9 p.m.

## CASINO LISTINGS



**Harrah's Resort Atlantic City**  
\$40-\$80, 609-441-5786  
[www.harrahsresort.com](http://www.harrahsresort.com)

**Handel's 'Messiah'**  
Sunday, 7 p.m.  
Stockton Performing Arts Center  
\$8, 609-652-9000  
[www.stockton.edu](http://www.stockton.edu)

**Family**

**Brunch with Santa**  
December 9-15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Atlantic City Country Club  
\$15-\$30, 609 236-4421  
[www.caesars.com](http://www.caesars.com)  
A professional photographer will take pictures of the kids with San-

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For more information, visit the Atlantic City Convention & Visitors Authority at [www.atlanticcitynj.com](http://www.atlanticcitynj.com) and click on Calendar for event details.

ta while the family enjoys a Sunday brunch.

**Winter Wonderland**  
Saturday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Atlantic City Convention Center  
Free, 609-347-5428  
The afternoon will include magic shows, moon bounces, face painting, arts and crafts — and more.

**'Cirque Polynesian'**  
**Holiday Show**  
December 9-15  
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# The perfect platter

- You don't need to slave over a stove before your holiday shindig
- Throw some cured meats and cheese on a platter for one crowd-pleasing spread

lately, charcuterie is the belle of the ball — or, rather, party circuit. Heather Munden, artisan winemaker at St. Francis winery, explains: "[A plate of cured meats is] so easy to put together and you can be so creative with it. It's very portable — if you take it to someone's house, it's not going to spill in the car or cab." And that's just part of why it's so popular, especially around the holiday season. Since Munden also cures her own meats, we got her tips on putting together the perfect spread.

## Her formula

"I usually get two hard cheeses, two soft cheeses, a couple different meats and a bowl of spiced nuts — which anyone can whip up at home. Then add olives,

pickles, mustard, a baguette and an assortment of cool crackers (like flatbread crackers) to give the table a bit of texture."

## Don't forget the cheese

"Try to be diverse: Mix a goat, sheep and cow milk cheese. One that you always have to have is a Brie or Camembert. Manchego works really well with white and red wine."

## The cuts

"I think three meats are great: I'll do a spicy Coppa, a dried salami — Salumeria Biellese does a great red wine and garlic salami — and a mortadella, which I love. It's not what you remember as a kid. It's got pistachios. It's a really good option that works



► It's super easy, and it's also a feast for the eyes.

## Nuts recipe

"Make a mixture of pecans, almonds and whatever is in the cupboard. Toss them in a little bit of olive oil and sprinkle them with a mixture of paprika, cayenne and maybe a little thyme. Pop them in the oven at 400 degrees for about 10 minutes."

well with red and white wine too."

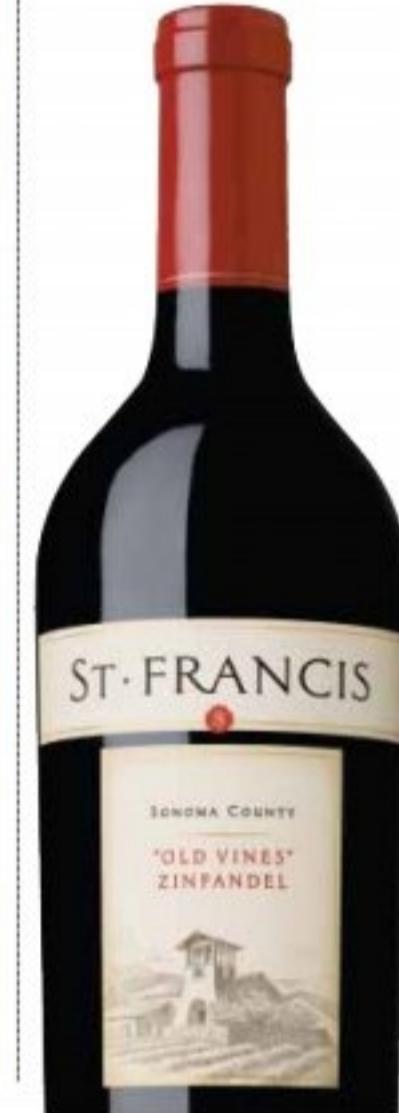
## Presentation

"Make little signs so people know what the meats and cheeses are. For one party, I found an old chalkboard and put the cheeses right on the board and wrote what they were on there. I also write people's names on their wine glasses with Sharpies so they don't lose them. It washes off."

 **TINA CHADHA**  
tina.chadha@metro.us

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For your meats and cheeses try Salumeria Biellese ([www.salumeriabiellese.com](http://www.salumeriabiellese.com)) or Igourmet ([www.igourmet.com](http://www.igourmet.com)).

## Wine pairing

St. Francis Old Vines Zinfandel, \$20

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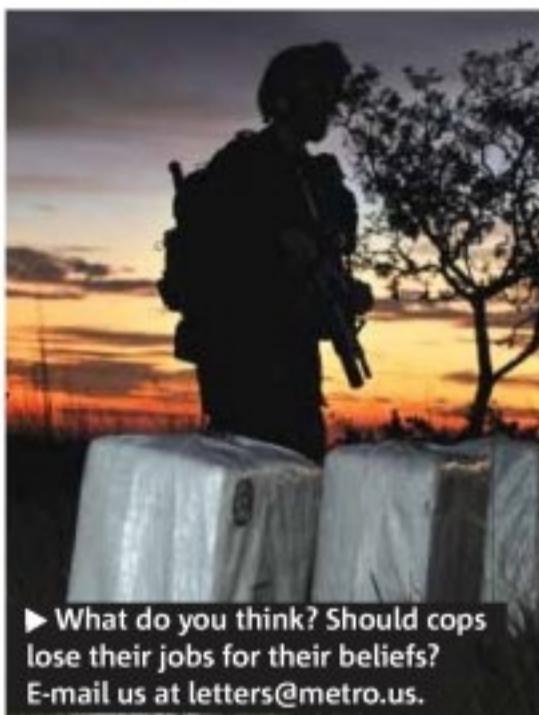
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## NO DISCOURSE IN DRUG WAR?

The Week That  
Was: Opinion

It doesn't take a brain amped up on crystal meth to deduce that the main contributions of the U.S. War On Drugs have been a costly rise in domestic incarcerations and the economic encouragement of violent killers south of the border. So it's disturbing to learn — through reports in the New York Times, among others — that multiple police officers have been fired in the past few years for the crime of expressing their sincere beliefs on drug reform.

Take Bryan Gonzalez, a former Border Patrol Agent who was sacked after lamenting to a fellow officer that legalization would save lives in Mexican cartel war zones like Ciudad Juarez. Or former probation officer Joe Miller, who was sent packing after signing his



► What do you think? Should cops lose their jobs for their beliefs? E-mail us at letters@metro.us.

name to a letter in support of LEAP — Law Enforcement Against Prohibition. Or Jonathon Wender, who won an \$815,000 settlement for unfair dismissal following similar sentiments. And there are more.

Whether or not you agree that prohibition puts power into the hands of drug cartels (allowing them, for instance, to use their billion-dollar monopoly to infiltrate the Mexican police force), it seems poorly conceived to hamper the deductive processes of our boys in blue — trusted to employ their thinking abilities in evaluation of the exercise of lethal force.

In the '20s, prohibition of alcohol created the market conditions that led to organized crime. In the past decade, the same market forces have led to an estimated 40,000 murders in Mexico alone. Discussing such should not be a career-ender.



BRAYDEN SIMMS

brayden.simms@metro.us

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author, or any opinions expressed on its pages. Opposing viewpoints are welcome. Please send 100-word submissions to letters@metro.us.

## Horoscope

**II Gemini May 21-June 20.** In situations where it's okay to be a bit assertive, you should take care not to go overboard and become pushy. To protect yourself, use charm (not force) to get what you want.

**♑ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Effective allies can sometimes be difficult to find; so when dealing with matters of extreme importance, it might be best to rely on your own assets. **♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Many are able to be led, even if they won't be driven or pushed into submission. So if you need to get certain people working on your team, keep this in mind.

**♒ Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Taking a big risk might be okay when you know the odds are tilted in your favor — but when things are not that certain, it would be far better to avoid taking chances.

**♓ Pisces Feb. 20-March 20.** If you take the position that you are absolutely right and your mate is totally wrong, all you'll do is prolong the argument. Regardless of what you think, it is best to give an inch.

**♈ Aries March 21-April 19.** If you're given some unfamiliar tools to work with, find somebody who is experienced in using them to teach you and follow their instructions.

**♉ Taurus April 20-May 20.** A lack of discipline could quickly sow the seeds for spender's remorse. You had better get a handle on your funds right off the bat or risk being broke by day's end.

**♊ Gemini May 21-June 20.** In situations where it's okay to be a bit assertive, you should take care not to go overboard and become pushy. To protect yourself, use charm (not force) to get what you want.

**♋ Cancer June 21-July 22.** When you dig in, it can be difficult for you to forgive and forget. And when this happens it usually works against you. Let go and get on with your life.

**♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 22.** You won't have any problems being generous with others of your own volition. However, if someone requests it of you, you're not likely to be too magnanimous in your treatment.

**♍ Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** Manipulative moves could jeopardize your relationships with others, so try to enjoy friends for what they are instead of what they have to offer. That would only work against you.

**♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 22.** It is never a good day to discuss politics or religion with somebody who feels as strongly about his or her views and opinions as you do. All it would do is send sparks flying.

**♏ Scorpio Oct. 23-Nov. 22.** When it comes to involving yourself with someone in a close endeavor, make sure it is a person who is as honest and aboveboard as you. If you suspect the other party of being deviant, back off. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

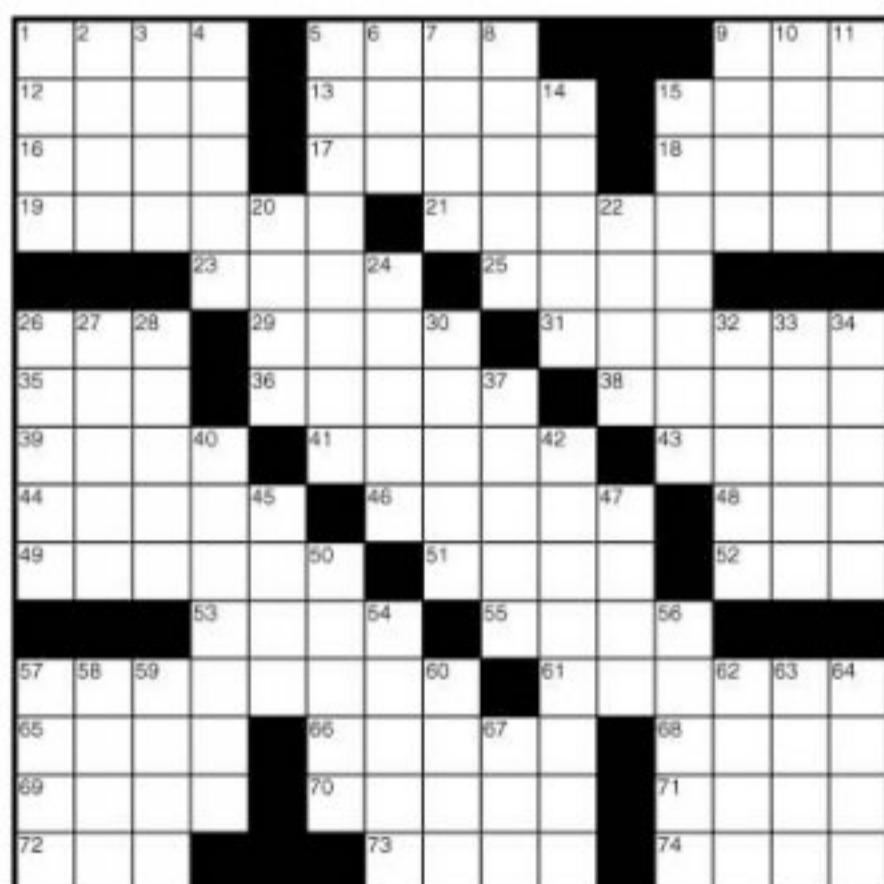
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9 Hangar occupant  
12 Cut some slack  
13 Drove at Daytona  
15 Ankle-length  
16 Wew hours in Cannes  
17 ATM key  
18 With, to Maurice  
19 Sturdy shoe  
21 Pancake  
23 "Hud" Oscar-winner  
25 King's address  
26 Dracula, at times  
29 Wild guess  
31 Had a snack  
35 Bonfire residue  
36 Doctrine  
38 Archaeology find  
39 Hwy.  
41 Avoid, as an issue  
43 Bellow  
44 Hunter constellation  
46 Over  
48 Rock's Leppard  
49 Martial-arts star  
51 Jane Austen title  
52 Former JFK arrival  
53 Political coalition  
55 colada (rum drink)  
57 Polaris

61 Bowser's ID (2 wds.)  
65 Tooth anchor  
66 Fountain in Rome  
68 "Cope Book" aunt  
69 Heavy burden  
70 Shuttle course  
71 Pseudonyms, for short  
72 Find fault  
73 Catch sight of  
74 Perched on  
**Down**  
1 Gambler's town



2 de vie (brandies)  
3 Oh, sure! (2 wds.)  
4 Pretend (2 wds.)  
5 Happens before  
6 John, in Glasgow  
7 Feigns  
8 Has an intuition  
9 Coffee or island  
10 Board mem.  
11 Woods insect  
12 Sink necessity  
13 Grandeur  
14 Perched on  
15 Frozen desserts  
16 Take a load off



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SUDOKU LEVEL: HARD

## Solution to Thursday's crossword



45 Swedish name  
47 Prefix for second  
50 voce  
54 Novelist John Le  
56 Booster rocket  
57 Mr. Hubbard  
58 Chaplin's wife  
59 Flutie or Henning  
60 Yanks' adversaries  
62 Medium pace  
63 BBs  
64 Huff and puff  
67 Kind of treatment

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# Avoiding reactionary bets

The average, or "square," bettor almost always bets favorites. They lay the points simply because they know X team is better than Y team. Usually, that creates value in the underdog.

But what about in the rare instance when the public actually leans heavily to-

ward the dog? Of the 14 NFL games on the board this Sunday, just one game fits the bill: Giants at Cowboys. Dallas is a 3 1/2 point favorite, but 72 percent of bettors on Covers.com are taking New York.

This should be a red flag. Why would the public be

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on the dog here? It likely has to do with Dallas' loss in Arizona. Square bettors were burned by the Cowboys as a road favorite.

That's old-fashioned reactionary, week-to-week betting — something we should always be trying to avoid. **ADAM LEVITAN**

# Destiny still lies in Giants' hands

► New York is coming off four straight losses, but they're still feeling confident ► Head to Dallas knowing they need to sweep division rivals

The Giants know how big of a game this is, just don't ask them if they're in "must-win" mode yet.

Although reeling from a four-game skid and playing a divisional archrival one game ahead of them in the standings, the Giants aren't handling this game as if it's do or die. Of course realistically, if the Giants (6-6) drop this pivotal Sunday night game in Dallas, the season may be over because it'll give the Cowboys (7-5) a two-game lead with just three games remaining.

"Yeah, this is exciting. When you're getting into December and you're playing for playoffs and division leads and different things, this is what it's all about," quarterback Eli Manning said. "This is a huge game, [but] it's not a situation where all of a sudden you get stressed or you get worried about winning or losing."

There is good reason for the Giants to feel good about themselves. Sure, they got blown out by the Saints two weeks ago and lost at the final gun to the Packers last week, but the Giants control their playoff destiny. Sweep the



► Hakeem Nicks said he doesn't "think it is hard" to win out and make the playoffs.

Cowboys (Sunday and the season finale on New Year's Day) and the Giants are NFC East champions and will host a wild-card game.

"We know where we want to be; we know what we want to do and we just have to get the job done,"

said wide receiver Hakeem Nicks. "I feel like we are in a situation where we hold our own destiny. I don't think it is hard [winning their last four]."

Manning said he looks forward to going to Dallas because the offense —

himself in particular — has had some great success there.

"We're excited about playing Dallas [because] it's always a big game," Manning said.

**TONY WILLIAMS**  
sports@metro.us

## The cold, hard football facts

A look at this weekend's NFL action through the eyes of the football stat experts at [Coldhardfootballfacts.com](http://Coldhardfootballfacts.com).



## Passing records

### falling on 'D' too

Star quarterbacks Tom Brady, Drew Brees and Aaron Rodgers have a chance to break Dan Marino's single-season record of 5,084 passing yards set in 1984. Conversely, the defenses from Super Bowl contenders New England (9-3) and Green Bay (12-0) are on pace to give up more passing yards than any other team in football history. Here's a look at what the five worst pass defenses in history may look like at the end of the season:

- **2011 Patriots**  
5,192 passing yards\*
- **2011 Packers**  
4,907 passing yards\*
- **1995 Falcons**  
4,751 passing yards
- **2005 49ers**  
4,620 passing yards
- **1986 Jets**  
4,567 passing yards

(\*projected)

# 3

## In the AFC

### STANDINGS EAST

PATRIOTS	9-3
JETS	7-5
BILLS	5-7
DOLPHINS	4-8
<b>NORTH</b>	
RAVENS	9-3
STEELERS	9-3*
BENGALS	7-5
BROWNS	4-8*
<b>SOUTH</b>	
TEXANS	9-3
TITANS	7-5
JAGUARS	3-9
COLTS	0-12
<b>WEST</b>	
BRONCOS	7-5
RAIDERS	7-5
CHIEFS	5-7
CHARGERS	5-7

## In the NFC

### STANDINGS EAST

COWBOYS	7-5
GIANTS	6-6
EAGLES	4-8
REDSKINS	4-8
<b>NORTH</b>	
PACKERS	12-0
BEARS	7-5
LIONS	7-5
VIKINGS	2-10
<b>SOUTH</b>	
SAINTS	9-3
FALCONS	7-5
PANTHERS	4-8
BUCCANEERS	4-8
<b>WEST</b>	
49ERS	10-2
SEAHAWKS	5-7
CARDINALS	5-7
RAMS	2-10

\*DOESN'T INCLUDE THURSDAY'S GAME

On the air Sunday

Giants at Cowboys  
8:20 p.m. (NBC)

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## Jets OC not feeling Moore heat

It's not exactly a secret that Jets fans aren't happy with Jets offensive coordinator Brian Schottenheimer's play calling.

► Schottenheimer

So it's no surprise eyebrows were raised when Rex Ryan announced consultant Tom Moore, the architect of Peyton Manning's Colts offense, would be getting more involved with the team.

For his part, Schottenheimer was diplomatic about the move in his press conference on

Thursday.

"I love having Tom here," Schottenheimer said. "I've thoroughly enjoyed it. It truly makes the things that we were doing before so much easier. He's been great."

So should he be looking over his shoulder?

"I don't get that sense at all," he said. • METRO

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Tampa Bay at Jacksonville 1 p.m.	Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay	Jacksonville
Philadelphia at Miami 1 p.m.	Miami	Miami	Philadelphia
Kansas City at N.Y. Jets 1 p.m.	N.Y. Jets	N.Y. Jets	N.Y. Jets
New Orleans at Tennessee 1 p.m.	New Orleans	New Orleans	New Orleans
New England at Washington 1 p.m.	New England	New England	New England
San Francisco at Arizona 4:05 p.m.	San Francisco	San Francisco	San Francisco
Chicago at Denver 4:05 p.m.	Chicago	Denver	Denver
Oakland at Green Bay 4:15 p.m.	Green Bay	Green Bay	Green Bay
Buffalo at San Diego 4:15 p.m.	Buffalo	San Diego	San Diego
N.Y. Giants at Dallas 8:20 p.m.	N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants	N.Y. Giants
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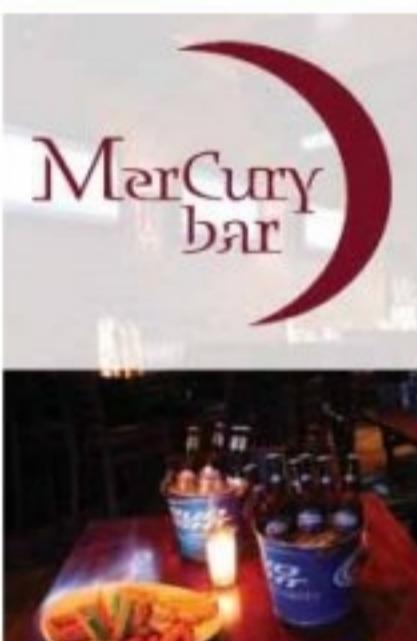
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► Palko is one of three left-handed starters in the league.

## Jets expect a new spin

- Lefty Palko presents new problem
- Brunell talks southpaw changes

On TV Sunday

Jets vs. Chiefs  
1 p.m., CBS2

It won't only be Jets head coach Rex Ryan giving an unusual spin on the game in his postgame press conference on Sunday. Chiefs quarterback Tyler Palko will be delivering an unusual spin during the game.

The left-handed Palko will provide a different delivery for the Jets to get used to.

"The spin on the football is a little difference, but maybe the blind side is different," Ryan said. "Obviously some of the things you would do might be a little different."

Jets backup quarterback Mark Brunell, himself left-handed, said that he never experienced a team making

major adjustments defensively to counter the ball coming from a southpaw.

"Typically D-ends don't flip. I've never really seen a huge adjustment as far as me being left-handed," Brunell said. "It just doesn't happen."

Still, the Jets are wary of the back fade being something the Chiefs can exploit.

"You have to be in position for that," cornerback Kyle Wilson said. "It isn't about how he throws or if it's from his left hand." • KRISTIAN DYER

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► Paul can opt out of his contract at the end of this year.

HARRY BOWNETT/IMAGES

# Chris Paul trade in limbo

For a few hours Thursday night Chris Paul was looking like the newest Hollywood star.

Then the NBA got involved.

Paul, the four-time NBA All-Star, was reportedly traded to the Lakers for Lamar Odom and Pau

Gasol. Gasol would then be flipped to the Rockets for Luis Scola, Kevin Martin, Goran Dragic and a first-round draft pick.

Problem is, the Hornets are owned by the league. ESPN reported late Thursday night that the trade didn't sit well with some

## Chandler rumors

It was reported Thursday that the Knicks were close to signing Tyson Chandler.

In order to do so, the Knicks would likely need to amnesty Chauncey Billups.

of the league's owners and the NBA reportedly has killed the deal. Earlier in the day Thursday rumors started to surface that Paul might be involved in a trade to the Knicks for Amar'e Stoudemire.

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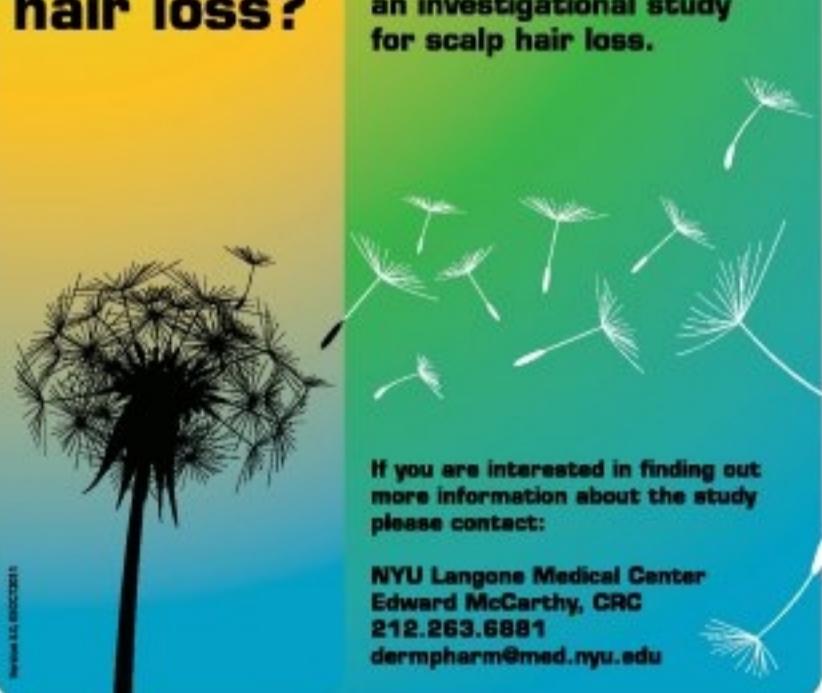
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## Real Estate/Rent

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